

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
468,000

No 63,032

Thatcher and Lawson compromise on pound

Base rate cut signals end to policy dispute

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The squabble over the pound between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer ended yesterday, with a base rate cut led by the Bank of England, after a strong rise in sterling.

The cut in rates from 9 to 8.5 per cent showed that a compromise has been reached on the management of the pound.

Meanwhile, Mr Nigel Lawson, who earlier this week said that he did not intend any further reforms of personal taxes and has been criticised by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, added to speculation that he may soon move on from his job.

"Nobody goes on being Chancellor of the Exchequer for ever," he said on BBC radio. "I have been Chancellor of the Exchequer for much longer than most people. But whether or not this is my last Budget, time will tell."

The latest unemployment figures, published yesterday, showed a 33,400 drop to 2,531,300, the nineteenth successive monthly fall.

Britain's unemployment rate

is now below that of France, Belgium and the Netherlands, but there are signs that the fall in unemployment is slowing.

The Chancellor had issued a warning in his Budget speech that the drop in unemployment was likely to moderate this year.

The main banks cut their base rates from 9 to 8.5 per cent, after the Bank of England's signal, after the pound soared in

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overnight trading in the Far East.

Sterling rose to DM3.1080 and \$1.86 as overseas investors reconsidered Britain's balanced Budget and bought the pound heavily.

The signal to cut rates from the Bank of England, at 9.45am, took the City by surprise and came after an instruction from the Chancellor.

The Treasury will not attempt to target the pound as tightly against the German mark as before, when an unofficial DM3 ceiling was resolutely defended, and prolonged and heavy foreign exchange

intervention will not be used to restrain the pound.

Downing Street sources said that the Prime Minister still regarded large-scale intervention in the foreign exchange markets as throwing good money after bad.

But the Bank's move yesterday showed that action will be taken to prevent the pound from rising too sharply, and the Government's aim will be broad stability for the exchange rate.

Treasury and Bank of England officials believe that the pre-Budget policy of keeping the pound below DM3 gave the financial markets a ready target to aim at. The intention now will be to prevent such certainties and to keep the markets guessing.

Mrs Thatcher endorsed the cut in interest rates during Question Time in the House of Commons, and officials said that she was "behind it 100 per cent."

The Chancellor, interviewed on BBC radio, said that it was "important for British business and industry to feel that there is a reasonable degree of stability in the exchange rate."

The cut in base rates, which will reduce industry's borrow-

ing costs by £125 million a year, was welcomed by the Confederation of British Industry.

"This is exactly the kind of step that the CBI had hoped to see following the Budget," said Mr John Banham, the CBI director general, said. "There should be scope for further cuts before too long."

The building societies did not raise mortgage rates when base rates rose by half a point early last month, and are not presently planning a cut.

Reaction in the City was muted. Shares were lifted from their worst levels but concern remained over the strength of the pound and its impact on exporters.

The FT-SE 100 index, having opened 11.4 points down, closed 2.4 points up at 1,828.1. Government stocks fell in spite of the base rate reduction, because of fears of higher inflation.

These fears were emphasized in figures for average earnings published by the Department of Employment yesterday.

Average earnings growth accelerated in manufacturing and the increase for the whole economy in the 12 months to January was 8.5 per cent.

Kinnock pledges higher tax band

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock last night committed a future Labour government to restoring the graduated system of higher income tax which the Chancellor abolished in Tuesday's Budget.

In a television interview, Mr Kinnock said the gap between the new 25p basic rate and the higher rate of 40p was "not sustainable in economic and moral terms."

Mr Kinnock declined to be drawn on what the new rates would be. They are currently the subject of consideration by a



confidential review group on economic policy, chaired by Mr John Smith, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

But he did not rule out the possibility of a return to a 60p top rate. One of the options being considered by the review group is for a graded system with rates at 15, 34 and 60 per cent.

Mr Smith is thought to be in favour of a lower top rate, possibly 50 or 55 per cent, but with several bands rising smoothly from 15 per cent.

Mr Smith said yesterday that Labour was working towards a new "fair" policy on taxation in which the starting rate was lower than 25 per cent.

He cited with approval West German proposals for a smooth transition from 18 to 56 per cent, saying: "I think that is the proper style of an income tax system."

In his interview, on Thames TV's *This Week* programme, Mr Kinnock appeared almost to be goading Mr Tony Benn into challenging him for the leadership this year. He suggested that Mr Benn was being cautious because he "knew who's going to win and win triumphantly."

On taxation he said: "Certainly the top rate of tax would have to go up and it would be graded according to income." He suggested that people were actually paying tax at 34p when National Insurance contributions were included, while the wealthy were paying 40 per cent. "That gap is not really sustainable in economic terms and moral terms."

He promised that Labour would spread the number of people who were capable of paying tax.

The Times presents the Thyssen masterpieces



"Portrait of a Spanish Princess" (perhaps Catherine of Aragon) by Juan de Flandes. Below, "La Toilette" by Boucher, whose wife posed as the lady fastening her garter.



By Sarah Jane Checkland,
Art Market Correspondent

A unique exhibition of Old Masters has arrived in London: 50 superb works owned by Baron Hans-Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, perhaps the most powerful collector and connoisseur alive. It opens at the Royal Academy in Piccadilly today, as a result of sponsorship from *The Times*.

From paupers to patriarchy, from peasants to prophets, the exhibition represents a parade of personalities

reaching back through time. It also demonstrates some of the finest techniques in the history of western art, as deployed by many of the finest artists: Caravaggio, Van Dyck, Goya, El Greco, Holbein and Rubens are all here.

Continued on back page

A royal tribute to Major Lindsay

By Alan Hamilton

Ten members of the Royal Family, led by the Prince and Princess of Wales, joined a congregation of nearly 1,000 in the memorial chapel of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, yesterday for the funeral of Major Hugh Lindsay, who died when an avalanche hit the Prince's skiing party in Switzerland last Thursday.

Such a gathering of royalty at a funeral service has not been seen since the funeral of the Duchess of Windsor two years ago. It indicated the respect and affection in which Major Lindsay, a former equerry to the Queen, was held.

His comrades in the 9/12th Royal Lancers bade him farewell with customary military honour.

Eight pall-bearers from the regiment, all personal friends, accompanied by a 100-man escort walking in slow time with lances reversed, bore the coffin. It was draped in the Union flag on top of which was his cap, medals and a wreath of red and yellow flowers from his widow Sarah, who is expecting her first baby in May.

Mrs Lindsay sat in the front pew of the airy Renaissance-style chapel with her father and mother. Across the aisle sat the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, Prince Edward, The Princess

Royal, The Duke of Gloucester, Viscount Linley, representing his mother Princess Margaret, Lady Sarah Armstrong Jones and Miss Marina Ogilvy. Three uniformed equerries represented the Queen, the Queen Mother and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Behind them, the chapel was almost filled with men of the regiment and former comrades from Major Lindsay's tours of duty.

The service, conducted by the Rev Peter Emmett, senior chaplain at Sandhurst, was traditional, and very English, introduced by Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and proceeding through the comforting familiar words and music of the 23rd and 121st psalms.

The Prince of Wales, his voice reported by those inside to be steady and composed, read the equally familiar lesson from the Book of Revelation: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth."

KLASIKERS: Mrs Patten-Tomkinson, aged 46, who was injured in the avalanche that killed Major Lindsay is still in the intensive care unit of Davos hospital where yesterday she had a further operation on her damaged leg. She faces yet another operation in six or seven weeks, said a hospital official.



Mrs Sarah Lindsay leaving her parents' home in Godalming yesterday on her way to the funeral service at Sandhurst.

WIN £112,000

Portfolio
PLUS NEW
Accumulator

There is £112,000 to be won in today's Portfolio Accumulator, plus the £4,000 daily prize. (Yesterday's winners, page 3).

TIMES FOCUS

Today the Queen opens the North Terminal at Gatwick Airport, the best and most lavishly equipped in Europe. A Special Report charts its progress. Pages 33-38

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Sharpeville Six win a reprieve

From Michael Horsby
Pretoria

The Supreme Court in Pretoria yesterday granted a four-week stay of execution to the Sharpeville Six, the five black men and one woman who had been due to hang this morning for the murder of a black township councillor four years ago.

Mr Dennis Kuny, for the six, said that an application would be made to reopen the trial.

The judge, Mr W.J. Human, agreed that "a reappraisal of the entire case" might be called for in the light of new information that a black State witness may have committed perjury by implicating two of the six after being assaulted by police.

New evidence, page 9

Ford scraps new factory plan

By Kerry Gill

The Ford Motor Company yesterday revealed that it would not after all set up a £40 million components factory in Dundee because of bitter inter-union squabbling.

The plant, which would have eventually brought as many as 1,500 jobs to the city, has been the victim of a furious inter-union row which broke out in the wake of an agreement reached with the Amalgamated Engineering Union for a one-union deal.

The decision to abandon the plan, which will be announced officially today by the company, will be a blow to the TUC, which had flown a delegation led by Mr Norman Willis, the General Secretary, to Detroit in a bid to talk Ford chiefs into giving them more time for inter-union negotiations.

Upstart was caused within the TUC because rival unions claimed that the Dundee deal flew in the face of existing union agreements with the Ford Motor Company.

Last night Mr Gavin Laird, General Secretary of the AEU, reacted furiously: "Never in all my adult life have I felt so sickened. It seems to me that their (the unions') spurious principles are more important than jobs. I am absolutely sick."

Ford, which would have started work on the plant on the outskirts of Dundee within a few months, had said that if the unions did not patch up their differences and agree to Mr Laird's one-union deal it would look elsewhere.

The plant would have brought 400 jobs initially, but it was expected that eventually 1,500 jobs would be created.

The Scottish Development Agency, which had helped to attract Ford to Scotland, said last night that it was "devastated" adding that managers who had objected to the AEU deal could not sidestep their responsibility for losing such an important investment for the country.

Lord Gould, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, said he was "dumbfounded by the stupidity of the unions."

It is not now clear where Ford will eventually site its plant, but it is virtually certain that it will not be in the United Kingdom; it may well be in Austria.

Ford's decision is not just a massive blow for Dundee, which already has high unemployment, but is also a disastrous decision for Scotland as a whole.

US sends 3,150 soldiers into Honduras

From Michael Binyon in Washington and Christopher Thomas in Tegucigalpa

US troops began arriving in Honduras last night as President Reagan's decision to send 3,150 soldiers to Central America provoked protests in America and Nicaragua.

As the first of 26 plane-loads of troops arrived at Palmerola air base, the main centre of US military operations in Honduras, a US Embassy spokesman said that the remainder of the C-141 planes would land at 30-minute intervals. Palmerola is about 40 miles north-west of Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital.

President Reagan's order was issued after Congress had gone

home on Wednesday evening. It directed two battalions of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division and two battalions of the 7th Infantry Division to leave for Honduras immediately.

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White House officials said the soldiers were sent in response to a request from President Azcona for US help in turning back 2,000 Nicaraguan troops who crossed the border.

Mr Maria Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, called

the action "a measured response designed to show our staunch support for the democratic Government of Honduras at a time when its territorial integrity is being violated by the Cuban and Soviet-supported Sandinista Army."

The decision took the Pentagon by surprise and officials appeared uncertain about what role the troops would play.

Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, said in Bern, Switzerland, where he has been holding talks with Mr Dmitri Yavov, his Russian counterpart, that the US forces would re-

main 20 miles from the Nicaraguan border and would not be involved in any hostilities.

Present Ortega of Nicaragua called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council. He described the despatch of the US soldiers to Honduras as "a very dangerous act" and a direct threat to Nicaragua.

Congressional Democrats angrily accused the US Administration of creating an artificial crisis to force Congress to reinstate military aid.

They said the action could herald a dangerous escalation of US involvement in Central America.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
Quality in an age of change.

BA may be forced to open sealed exits after safety ruling

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways may be forced to reopen two sealed doors on its fleet of 33 Boeing 747 jumbo jets after an American air safety ruling.

The doors were blocked off in 1985 because safety officials on both sides of the Atlantic decided that all the passengers could be evacuated within 90 seconds through half the available exits in an emergency.

The Federal Aviation Administration in Washington was not happy about the moves and is now insisting on a maximum distance of 60 ft between any doors on all aircraft on the American register.

This is about 12 ft less than the distance between the two middle doors on existing British Airways 747s.

Details of the ruling, which is planned to come into force this summer, have been sent to the Civil Aviation Authority in Britain. It is considering imposing the same rule on British jets.

That could mean that British Airways is forced to adapt every jumbo in service and reopen the blocked over-wing exits at a cost of millions of pounds.

Alternatively the authority may decide that only new aircraft must comply with the new rule, or even that it should be ignored for British registered aircraft.

The FAA ruling has embarrassed the CAA because British Airways is one of only a handful of airlines which sealed the exits in the first place. It was allowed to do so only after Boeing convinced the FAA that the aircraft could still be evacuated safely with four doors on either side rather than with five.

Within weeks of agreeing that the door could be blocked the FAA had written to American airlines urging them not to do so, even though they would have been technically within their rights. As a result none did, leaving BA, together with KLM, Thai International and a handful of other airlines flying with four exits instead of five on either side.

Since then the FAA has been studying new rules governing the safety of passengers and how they should be worded. They finally decided that the simplest and most effective way of controlling the number of exits was to limit the distance between any two doors to 60 ft.

Under the rule every new aircraft coming on the register in America will be required to have exits well within that limit.

The CAA, however, must now decide whether to follow the rule and limit it to new aircraft only — such as the 16 Boeing 747-400 jets now on order by BA — or to make it retrospective and apply the ruling to existing jets too.

"We are watching developments in the United States and will be making our own decisions shortly", a CAA spokesman said.

The CAA has believed that the 747 is safe with only four doors on either side because repeated evacuation tests have shown that the 412 passengers carried as a maximum on British Airways aircraft can get out in 90 seconds, the existing regulation.

British Airways said last night: "As far as we are concerned the aircraft is perfectly safe with only four main exit doors. The 747-400 has been ordered with eight main

exits which complies fully with existing regulations. Naturally if the CAA makes other rules we shall comply with them."

Boeing is also opposed to the new ruling. "We commend the FAA for being decisive and timely but we do not agree with the decision. Data, tests in service experience and analysis show the distance between exit doors in 747s carrying up to 440 passengers with eight doors and up to 550 passengers with 10 doors provide for safe evacuation."

Nearly 30 per cent of 747s, 196 aircraft in all, are operated in an eight-door configuration, it says, and have accumulated more than 4.4 million flight hours safely.

When British Airways decided to block off its additional over-wing exit in 1985 it sparked a safety controversy. British Airways insisted, however, that not only was its move made in compliance with regulations but the aircraft remained perfectly safe.

Since then the transatlantic argument has persisted and the FAA has now finally moved to prevent any other airlines following the lead.

British Airways admits that reopening the exits will not only be costly but also complicated. It will be lobbying hard over the next few weeks to convince the CAA that it should not follow the American lead.

It is unlikely that the CAA will impose different standards from those set by the FAA. Its main concern will be to decide whether to make the rule retrospective, so involving all British Airways jumbos or whether to set the 60 ft rule for new aircraft only.

Shamrock for the Chelsea girls



Girls from the Garden House School, Sloane Gardens, Chelsea, west London, celebrating St Patrick's Day as guests of the Irish Guards at Chelsea Barracks yesterday. The pupils, aged five, were given sprigs of shamrock and were introduced to the Queen Mother after the ceremony (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Consultant victim of race bias

A consultant microbiologist who was rejected for a hospital post for which she was the mostly highly-qualified candidate was awarded damages of £3,000 yesterday after proving she was the victim of racial discrimination.

The Court of Appeal upheld an industrial tribunal decision that in refusing the consultant post at the Ashford Hospital, Middlesex, to Dr Malika Noon, who was born in Sri Lanka, the North West Thames Regional Health Authority was guilty of discrimination.

It allowed Dr Noon's appeal against a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, which had reversed the industrial tribunal finding. However, the judges reduced the amount of compensation from £5,000 to £3,000.

Law reforms in two stages

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is planning a two-stage reform of the courts and the law on families and children.

The measure is expected to start its Parliamentary passage in the next session as part of the government Bill on child care law.

Government sources confirmed yesterday that Lord Mackay was as keen as his predecessor, Lord Havers, to proceed with the long-awaited family courts reform, despite fears that he had shelved it.

However, Lord Mackay wants to tackle the law and procedure on families and children first, establishing a much more coherent, simple and logical legal framework for problems arising from divorce and child care, before moving on to the way the courts should be organized.

A senior government source said yesterday: "The impression that the Lord Chan-

cellor is not keen is not at all accurate.

"In fact he has brought a very keen mind to bear on some of the issues and provided a head of steam."

A two-stage programme of reform is expected. The first, a new code governing law and procedure on families and child care will be brought together in the expected Bill on child care law for next session.

That will embrace the main proposals of the Government's White Paper on child care law, or the "public law", as well as the private law which has been reviewed by the Law Commission, in four working papers on children. Those cover care, supervision and interim orders in custody proceedings, wards of court, guardianship and custody.

The government source said yesterday: "The most important thing is to get law right on child care and families.

When this is on the statute book, then we can turn to the other major question — the actual court structure."

An interdepartmental committee of officials is still working on the costings of a revised family court structure, which hitherto has been the chief stumbling block.

A full-scale reform, involving new court buildings, was ruled out by the Government when Lord Havers was Lord Chancellor.

The option expected to be approved is for a middle-way reform based on the county court, the model which attracted the widest support. That would involve four judicial tiers: High Court, circuit, registrars and lay magistrates. It is likely that all cases would start in the county court and then be allocated to their appropriate level.

The new court structure would be backed by a conciliation service.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Money for alternative medicine

An illustrator who shares the £4,000 daily Portfolio prize will donate a substantial amount of her windfall to the Research Council for Complementary Medicine, which promotes alternative treatments.

Mrs Duthy Dubrule, of Noel Road, Islington, north London, said she would give the charity a boost because she was a member of its council.

She said she had been playing the competition since it started, but had never won anything.

Also sharing the prize is Mr Oliver Roger, of Grass Park, Finchley, north London.

Challenge on 'sexist' school call

The Court of Appeal yesterday reserved judgement on Birmingham City Council's appeal against a ruling that its grammar school policies were sexist. No date given for a decision.

The Labour-run authority is seeking to overturn a High Court decision that it was guilty of sexual discrimination in providing almost twice as many grammar school places for boys as for girls.

Mr Justice McCullough granted a declaration in October last year that the council was in breach of the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, in a test case victory for the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Mr Michael Belfort, QC, for the council, told the court the ruling put all local education authorities in the "wholly impossible position" of having to forecast now what percentage of future generations of pupils would belong to each sex.

Crash award

Miss Jacqueline Rotherham, aged 26, from Liverpool, who suffered horrific injuries when the car in which she was a passenger collided with a fire engine rushing to a 999 call, was yesterday awarded £100,000 damages at the High Court in Liverpool.

Cot deaths on the increase

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A sharp rise in cot deaths, the first increase for almost 20 years, is baffling health experts and leading to calls for more research into the causes of the syndrome.

According to Department of Health and Social Security figures, 1,536 cases of sudden infant death syndrome, as cot deaths are also known, occurred during 1986, an increase of 250 on the previous year, and the first rise since 1970.

Although the reasons why apparently healthy babies die unexpectedly remain unclear, researchers believe that some of the deaths can be prevented by close monitoring of the infants and their families.

Lady Limerick, vice-chairman of the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, a charity which funds research, said yesterday: "I am very concerned that there has been this increase, and I am unhappy that it comes at a time when there is greater pressure on health visiting provision. These are the very people who could have a vital role."

Mrs Sue Howe, founder of another charity, the Cot Death

Society, said: "Whatever the reasons, the Department of Health should regard these deaths as an epidemic and open an investigation. We believe that more than half of all cot deaths could be avoided."

One possible explanation for the 1986 increase could be the cold winter of that year, according to Dr Michael Abrams, deputy chief medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security.

He told members of the House of Commons Committee on Social Services Committee that this factor was being looked at by the department.

A memorandum on the deaths, circulated to MPs on the committee, said the increase may have been exceptional and last year's figures "may well show a welcome resumption of the downward trend."

"Most cot deaths occur between the second and fifth months of life. Typically, a baby is found dead in the cot with no evidence to suggest a cause, and post-mortem

examination results are inconclusive.

However, notable features in many cases are that mothers are younger than average, the babies had a low birthweight and may have been involved in multiple births, such as triplets, and that the more children in the family the higher the risk.

In a scheme run by the Cot Death Society, at-risk families are provided with an electronic monitor which sounds an alarm if the baby stops breathing. Studies have shown that touching the infant's feet can stimulate a resumption of breathing.

"We have monitored 628 babies in this way in the last three years and so far we have not had one cot death, although many of the babies have stopped breathing more than 100 times", Mrs Howe said.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths is at 15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS; telephone 01 235 1721. The Cot Death Society is at 4 Mansell Drive, Washcommon, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 6TE; telephone 0635 523756.

Ambush 'stunned' solicitor

By Howard Foster

A solicitor in a car with two Irishmen was "stunned" when they pulled guns on him and ordered him to drive away. The Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Jonathan Denby, aged 40, of Heston, London, pleaded "not guilty" to four counts of having a firearm or imitation firearm, handling stolen police car keys, assisting an offender who made threats to kill a police officer and assisting an offender by causing him to be given £500.

The solicitor, who was Mr Enoch Powell's private secretary in the early 1970s, described how he met Irish brothers James and Philip Callaghan in a wine bar.

One night in June 1986 he was going with them to a club when, according to Mr Denby, they jumped out of the car in

Mayfair, central London, "brandishing what appeared to be handguns."

"They told the policemen to lie on the ground and if they didn't they would kill them", Mr Denby said.

"Jimmy Callaghan was prancing around and shouting and screaming as though he was possessed. It was completely extraordinary. I stood there dumbfounded."

"Philip said to me 'you get in the car'. Mr Denby said one of the men had grabbed him by the tie, threatened to kill him and told him to act normally.

The next day he gave them £500 in a public house, hoping they would leave the area.

Mr Denby, who hid from police for nearly a year, said he would have had to reveal the

men's identity if he had surrendered.

He rearranged his business affairs and moved from house to house, staying near Dover on one occasion and eventually being given the keys to the home of a business colleague in Epsom, south-west London.

"I decided the danger would go when they were caught and convicted without any evidence coming from me", Mr Denby said.

The trial continues today.

Colour bar

Los Angeles (Reuter) — A man wearing different shoes of different colours was excused from jury duty when a prosecutor said his footwear suggested he could be a non-conformist.

Slimmers 'given risky drug'

Patients who took slimming pills prescribed by a Harley Street doctor risked becoming dependent on them, a disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

Tablets supplied by Dr Sidney Gee, aged 67, had potentially dangerous side effects and needed careful supervision, it was said.

Dr Andrew Herzheimer said the daily 5 mg dose of dexamphetamine sulphate, known as "speed", was "quite enough for people to become dependent".

The professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council was told that the stimulant drug was given by Dr Gee as part of his treatment for three weeks and up to six months.

Dr Herzheimer, a lecturer and consultant in pharma-

cology and therapeutic medicine, said: "It is a dangerous drug. Its most notorious side effect is that people become dependent on it rather easily and abuse it."

"People have used it for slimming and in some instances become dependent. It can happen to anyone, whether a teenager or a fat middle aged woman. It is difficult to stop. You like the effects and feel good on it."

Dr Herzheimer said the class B controlled drug increased appetite and reduced insomnia, sweating and a high heart rate for people suffering from hypertension or heart disease.

The committee was told that Dr Gee used another similar drug, diethylpropion. Dr Herzheimer said it could

cause sleeplessness and a racing heart and was potentially dangerous.

Dr Gee, of Chester Close North, Regent's Park, north London, who won £75,000 libel damages in 1985 from the BBC's *That's Life* programme, denies serious professional misconduct between June 1982 and July 1983.

Dr Gee who practises in Rochester, Kent and Harley Street, is accused of abusing his professional position by supplying drugs to patients without adequately examining them, checking their medical history or consulting their GPs.

He is also alleged to have failed to respond to patients' complaints about drug side effects.

The hearing continues today.



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LEADING THE WAY TO THE U.S.A.

March 17 1988

PARLIAMENT

Belfast killings 'show futility of violence'

Yesterday's attack on mourners in the Belfast cemetery demonstrated clearly the total futility of violence, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in the Commons.

He called on all in the province to exercise restraint and to play a part in ending the cycle of violence, retaliation and further violence.

In a statement on the incident at the IRA funerals which left three people dead and many injured, Mr King said that it was an obscenity that the occasion, one for private mourning and grief, should have been brutally and savagely interrupted by such an attack.

"The events of yesterday only serve to underline the total futility of violence in all its forms."

"Nothing could have demonstrated more clearly that if people's thoughts are only of revenge and retaliation after any incident, then this awful cycle of killing and murder and violence will continue."

"And yet nothing showed more clearly the total futility of violence and that it offers nothing to any part of the community in Northern Ireland."

"At this time of great emotion it is now incumbent on everybody in the province to play their part in ending the cycle of violence and retaliation and further violence."

"It is not just the politicians, the church and community leaders, crucial though their role is, but everybody in the province has a responsibility to heal, and to calm and to mend what they say as much as what they do."

"The need once and for all to repudiate violence in speech as well as action and the determination to work positively to build a tolerant and caring society is the message that this House should send today."

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that on November 9 in the aftermath of the Enniskillen bombing, he had said that in the past even the most barbaric had accepted that people should be allowed to honour their dead in peace. That was the view of the Opposition.

"Would that yesterday would see an end to it all in Northern Ireland."

The perpetration of the outrage could lead only to feelings of revulsion by all who had seen the scenes on television.

The House would wish to associate itself with the calls made throughout the two islands, by the Prime Minister and by the Taoiseach of the Republic and leaders of the churches on both sides of the divide, politicians and community leaders, that no matter how

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understandable the feelings and desire for revenge, retaliation and retribution might be, there should be exercised self-control and discipline.

What was needed was for those with influence and in positions of authority to seek to prevent further violence, calm heads were required and the spirit that followed Enniskillen — the voice of the common people.

Until the gunman had appeared, the funeral had been conducted with dignity and in peace with no hint of trouble. By giving due respect to the wishes of the families of the dead, the security forces had been left in a position in which they could do no wrong.

The House would not wish to see the blanketing of funerals again, but decisions about security arrangements at funerals should be taken locally. The Opposition believed the security forces had been right to hold back at Milltown Cemetery.

There was a need for the elected and other leaders in both communities in the North to engage in constructive dialogue, seeking to make the strength of the democratic institutions more important than the strength of arms.

The catalogue of events in Northern Ireland since November, the deaths and political misunderstandings, showed everyone on both sides of the water and both parts of Ireland, that they must take the constructive opportunities available which did exist.

There had to be a democratic, peaceful, political solution to the problems of the North.

"Violence only breeds violence and we as a democracy have to say that it must stop."

Mr King said that he was grateful for Mr McNamara's remarks and appreciated his endorsement of the chief constable's decision on the security approach to the funerals. The decisions of the chief constable were absolutely right.

He had taken exactly the same view about that day's funeral and first reports were that it had passed off peacefully.

"After any incident in Northern Ireland, the air is thick with rumours and stories and allegations of who saw what and who might have done this, that and the other."

The police were the right authorities to investigate the incident and they had begun a thorough investigation.

"These are matters for the police and anybody who has any information that can assist the police in the proper prosecution of this investigation should make that information available to them."

Mr James Molyneux (Lagan Valley, OUP) said that, in joining unreservedly in the condemnation of the issue and the dastardly outrage, he rejected utterly the monstrous allegations that the Army and the RUC had engaged in a stand-off tactic to enable the attack to take place.

Mr King said that he repudiated utterly the disgusting allegations that there was, in some way, some collusion and that the purpose of proceeding with sensitivity within the whole area of west Belfast during the difficult period of the funerals was in some way to enable such an outrage to take place.

"I do not think that any reasonable person would give a moment's credence to that monstrous and demonstrable lie."

It had revealed the hypocrisy of Sinn Féin. When security forces seek to prevent illegality provoked by Sinn Féin or the IRA in many of these activities and seek to police them, they are accused of gross interference and violation of personal rights. The moment they seek to respond to representations from the church or the families or wherever, they are alleged to be exposing the families concerned to the risk of violence.

"It is a monstrous charge and I am glad to repudiate it."

Sir John Begg-Davison (Epping Forest, C) said that it would be helpful if certain Roman Catholic priests considered more carefully some of the words and the effect those words had on others.

Father Raymond Murray should remember that a priest was called to be a minister not just to republicans, but to Catholics of all opinions, including those serving in the armed forces and the police.

Mr King: I do not think that I was the only person who found

deeply distressing some of the comments in some of the addresses that were given at the funerals. They were many throughout the Catholic community who were equally distressed at these statements.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said he had consistently requested that, at these funerals, the police should adopt the position that they had adopted yesterday. They should continue to do that. "What they did was right and they should be under no attack whatsoever from whatever quarter." This was because, in Ulster, if anyone wanted to go in and commit an attack, "no amount of security would prevent it."

The perception of this Government's approach in the North was one of confrontation.

Mr King said he did not accept Mr Mallon's suggestion that the Government's approach was confrontational. The Government was seeking genuinely to try to heal the wounds in Northern Ireland.

Mr James Kilfedder (North Down, DUP) said that after each obscene IRA atrocity in the past 20 years, he had appealed for restraint and against retaliation. This was a time for calm.

Mr King: What is really obscene about these incidents is that they betray the vast majority of people in the province who are decent, hard-working people who want exactly the same kind of things that everyone else throughout the United Kingdom wants: a future for themselves and their families to grow up in peace and with some prospects of happiness for the future.

"It is the men of violence who stand in the way of that opportunity."

Mr David Alton, SLD spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that the best course for the British Government was to continue steadfastly to pursue its policies of the past two years: consolidation of the Anglo-Irish agreement and full support for the security forces.

Mr King said that violence was a threat to the whole island of Ireland. He welcomed news of an arms find in the republic by the Garda yesterday. That seemed to be a significant find, although the full details had not yet come through.

Sir Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C) said that a heavy responsibility lay upon those who staged highly charged political funerals for their own unscrupulous purposes.

And there was some responsibility on those who on television glorified them and, to that extent, almost incited violence.

Mr King agreed.

Mr Kenneth Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone, OUP) said that active measures must be taken to ensure that all paramilitaries were dealt with

for more than two years and, even if the stay of execution is maintained, they may face the prolonged ordeal of a second trial.

He asked that Mrs Thatcher should follow the "laudable example of President Reagan and herself pick up the telephone and ask President Botha once and for all to end this agony of the Sharpsville Six."

Mrs Thatcher said that the stay of execution had been granted to enable the lawyers to lodge an application for the case to be reopened. She did not know whether anything new had emerged.

Mr Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stortford, C) said the best way to proceed was quietly, by diplomatic means to bring to the South African authorities "the abhorrence that we all feel."

But the time had come for the Boy to rectify his third lesson in economics. This time, Mother, seemed exasperated. Up until now, he had been doing so well, but now it was back to square one. Mother huffed and puffed her annoyance. "Of course the Right Honourable Gentleman couldn't understand the significance of the last Budget in as far as he was listening, he doesn't understand because he doesn't listen... I don't expect him to understand."

The Boy sat down, struggling hard to smile. A few cheery uncles put their heads around the door, trying to jolly up the atmosphere a bit.

Uncle Norman Tebbit praised the Chancellor, the economy, the Government, the lot. Mother's stifles seemed to disappear. Uncle Norman had put it "in his own inimitable way and no one could have put it better."

"It contains something for everyone," agreed Mother, smiling through her tears. But out of the corner of her eye she saw the Boy nudging his rough friends in that coarse way of his. The young today are so very, very ungrateful.

Craig Brown



Mr Tom King: The cycle of violence, retaliation and further violence must be broken

Thatcher refuses direct appeal to Botha

The Prime Minister again declined at question time to intervene directly with President Botha in the case of the Sharpsville Six during their four weeks' stay of execution.

She said that full and correct representations had been made by her, by Chancellor Kohl and by President Reagan, which had expressed their views extremely clearly. They had asked for clemency.

She was replying to Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon, SLD), who urged her to use the four weeks to intervene directly to impress upon President Botha that the threatened executions were intolerable.

"Will she indicate that she is willing, if necessary, to withdraw the British ambassador or reopen the case for sanctions if the South African Government goes ahead with an action

showing them to be barbarous and in fundamental contempt for human rights?"

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said later that the Government welcomed the announcement of the stay of execution.

It would continue to make representations and bring to the notice of the South African Government at every possible opportunity the need for clemency.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, welcomed the news but said: "The shadow of the gallows still hangs over these six innocent people, as it has now

for more than two years and, even if the stay of execution is maintained, they may face the prolonged ordeal of a second trial."

He asked that Mrs Thatcher should follow the "laudable example of President Reagan and herself pick up the telephone and ask President Botha once and for all to end this agony of the Sharpsville Six."

Mrs Thatcher said that the stay of execution had been granted to enable the lawyers to lodge an application for the case to be reopened. She did not know whether anything new had emerged.

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Commons sketch

Mother and her troubles

Tom and Jerry, Andy and Flo, Basil and Sybil, even, no doubt, Sophie, the journalistic analogy hunters have explored a whole world of absurdity in their desire to express the bizarre relationship that exists between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock. Aunt and Bee, Man and Mouse, Victoria and Albert — and so it goes on.

But their relationship seems recently to have embarked upon a new and unusual phase, a phase for which a true analogy can be found only in that most fundamental of all human relationships, the sweet but sometimes strained connection that links a mother to her son.

In the past, the Prime Minister has been little time for Mr Kinnock. If the family metaphor were to be maintained, Mr Kinnock would be cast as the pet mouse brought into the House by the unwelcome cousin. If that were the case, Mrs Thatcher would simply slap at him with her broom. But now she seems to be warming to him. She scolds him, yes, but only because she is so eager for him to learn. In turn, he seems ever more to please her, forever sporting his new-found knowledge of the ins and outs of the capitalist economy.

At Question Time, the Boy Kinnock rose and recited the lessons he had learnt about the economy. "Interest rates need to go lower," he said. Seeing that Mother looked interested, the Boy Kinnock said he thought "one can and indeed one must buck the market."

Mother Thatcher responded by praising the Chancellor's "most excellent speech on Tuesday," but said that it was not "even better" if it had been heard in quietness. "This was believed to have been an admonishment towards the Boy's scruffy friends. How would the Boy ever take over the shop with friends like that?"

But the Boy was keen to make amends and prove himself. "The country will be glad to note that Number 10 and Number 11 are one big happy family again," he said. He then recited his second lesson in economics, referring to managed floats and managing a floating. "But the Chancellor is a manager while she remains a floater," he declared, showing off his new words.

"Why doesn't he include the whole Cabinet in the happy family?" asked Mother, and the Boy Kinnock seemed to be laughing. In the old days, he would never laugh at her jokes, but now he accepts them like sweets. "She should discuss the matter further with the Mr Kenneth Baker," he riposted, and they both smiled.

But the time had come for the Boy to rectify his third lesson in economics. This time, Mother, seemed exasperated. Up until now, he had been doing so well, but now it was back to square one. Mother huffed and puffed her annoyance. "Of course the Right Honourable Gentleman couldn't understand the significance of the last Budget in as far as he was listening, he doesn't understand because he doesn't listen... I don't expect him to understand."

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Craig Brown

Nicaragua incursion attacked

The reported incursion of Nicaraguan troops into Honduras was condemned by the Prime Minister at question time.

Mr Stuart Bell (Middlebrough, Lab) had asked why the British Government supported President Gorbachov's withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan when they had been invited to go there by the Afghan Government and yet welcomed it when the Hondurans invaded 3,000 American troops to Honduras.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Bell surprises me if he thinks the Russian forces are in Afghanistan as anything other than an occupying force.

Mrs Thatcher said later: We deplore the reported incursion by Nicaraguan troops into Honduras. On Wednesday, the Honduran Foreign Minister had called a press conference to draw attention to the possibility of a Nicaraguan attack.

Thatcher's praise for Lawson

Irony comment by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, during question time that 10 and 11 Downing Street again housed one big happy family gave Mrs Thatcher the opportunity to heap praise upon Mr Lawson and his "most excellent" Budget speech.

Mr Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said: "Today's reduction in interest rates is very welcome but they need to go lower (loud Conservative laughter). Just a little bit."

In pursuit of what the Chancellor, on Tuesday, called "the explicit role of greater exchange rate stability", does she now understand that when necessary one can and indeed one must buck the market?

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Lawson, in a most excellent speech on Tuesday — (Conservative cheers) — which would have been better had it been heard in quietness the entire way through, made perfectly clear that "Short-term interest rates remain the essential instrument of monetary policy. Within a continuous and comprehensive assessment of monetary con-

ditions I will continue to set interest rates at the level necessary to ensure downward pressure on inflation." That is what he did today.

Mr Kinnock: I, and I am sure the country, am glad to note that 10 and 11 Downing Street are one big happy family again (protest and laughter).

We are also happy to note her reconversion to managed floating. The real problem is that while the Chancellor is now a manager, she is still a floater.

Mrs Thatcher: Why not include the whole Cabinet in the big happy family?

Mr Kinnock: Perhaps she should consult further with Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science (loud Labour laughter).

On domestic stability, was it not she who said a week ago last Tuesday that she was against a cut in interest rates because it would not be in the interests of inflation at the present time?

Or by "the present time", did she just mean "a week last Tuesday"?



Mr Tebbit: Successful Government and economy

Mrs Thatcher: I meant what I said.

The only way to deal with that is either to have excessive intervention, etc, or to deal with the matter by interest rates, which would not be in the interests of inflation at the present time.

Mr Kinnock does not understand the significance of the last Budget in so far as he was listening. He does not under-

stand because he does not listen. Had he listened, he would have noted that on Tuesday we had an excellent Budget that demonstrated, with debt repayment of £3 billion, a strong, prudent, fiscal position, the full strength of which was not known to the world until that time.

Mr Norman Tebbit (Chingford, C): Despite the ill-informed talk of expenditure cuts and give-away budget, we are living in a period of highest ever levels of public expenditure; highest ever tax takes in the revenue; lowest tax rates; the best ever regulator on inflation; a period of falling interest rates and repayment of debt.

Would she not agree that that is the hallmark of a successful Chancellor, a successful Government and a successful economy?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. Mr Tebbit has put it in his own inimitable way and no one could have put it better.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab): Why did you sack him then?

Mr Hard said that the Government had given an unparalleled commitment to the Prison Service, in terms of building new prisons, moderniz-

Jail action 'highly undesirable'

The escape of seven violent prisoners from police cells in Battersea, south-west London, was a classic example of the dangers being run as a result of industrial action at Wormwood Scrubs and Pentonville prisons, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said during questions.

It was highly undesirable to have dangerous people held, even temporarily, in police cells.

Mr Hurd told the Commons that 1,535 prisoners were held in police cells in England and Wales on March 1, most of them unconvicted.

Mr Matthew Taylor (Turro, SLD) said that conditions in police cells were far worse than those in remand prisons. "It is barbaric for a civilized society to keep people in these conditions, which are often little better than keeping animals in a zoo."

Mr Hurd said that the Government had given an unparalleled commitment to the Prison Service, in terms of building new prisons, moderniz-

ing existing buildings.

"The situation he draws attention to is certainly deeply unsatisfactory. It is the result of industrial action in two large London prisons and partly of the growth of the prison population, which is not caused by an acceleration in crime — which has been slowing down — but by more cases going through the Crown courts and the increasing severity of sentences passed by those courts."

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) said that it was time to press ahead with the introduction of private contract prisons for remand prisoners.

Mr Hurd said that there was no magic in that solution.

Mr John Bawls (Battersea, C) said that, in the light of the escape, no prisoners on remand for crimes of violence should be kept in such cells overnight.

Mr Hurd: I entirely agree that it is highly undesirable that dangerous people should be held even temporarily in police cells.

Cheap TV concession for review

The Government is considering amending the scheme covering concessionary television licences for pensioners in local authority sheltered accommodation, Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Home Office, said during question time.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C), who raised the issue, said that pensioners and the disabled living in residential care got a television licence for 5p, but when they moved out of that accommodation into the community, they had to pay a thousand times that amount for the same licence.

Mr Renton: There are anomalies in this scheme and the Government is looking to see whether it would be appropriate to amend it.

Rev Martin Smyth (Belfast South, OUP) asked for an assurance that any change would not involve the loss of the present concession.

Mr Renton asked for patience.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's motion on competition policy.

MPs' foreign trips 'absurd'

By Martin Fletcher Political Reporter

The Commons Welsh affairs select committee has applied for more than £30,000 in order to visit Japan and South Korea this summer to study "inward investment".

The all-party ombudsman committee has been granted about £3,000 — much less than it wanted — to go to four Canadian cities to see how Canadian ombudsmen operate. Three years ago, the low-profile committee was the object of criticism for spending more than £12,000 on visiting ombudsmen in Australia and New Zealand.

Meanwhile, six members of the agriculture select committee, equipped with round-the-world, club-class air tickets, have just arrived in New Zealand via Seattle — to study forestry diversification. They will be away for two weeks at a total cost of £33,000.

One senior Labour select committee member yesterday described the trips as "absurd".

A senior Tory suggested that the Welsh committee should jump not on to an aircraft but on to the London Underground's Circle Line, which runs through Westminster.

Select committees

Sir Anthony Back: Forced to restrict trip

"One way it goes to the City, where the Japanese banks keep their money for investment. In the other direction it goes to the Japanese Embassy, whose excellent staff have all the information they need."

Select committees have been allocated £360,000 from public funds for overseas travel in the coming financial year, and, as in previous years, it is bound to be heavily oversubscribed. How the cake is divided is decided by the liaison committee of select committee chairmen, each of

whom fights hard to secure overseas trips for his own members.

Sir Anthony Back, chairman of the ombudsman committee, has been forced to restrict the Canadian trip — taking in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Edmonton — to three or four members, after the liaison committee allowed him only about £8,000.

He insisted yesterday that the Canadians had an interesting system of federal ombudsmen that was worth investigating, and angrily rejected any suggestion of profligacy.

Mr Gareth Wardell, chairman of the Welsh committee, hopes to take six other MPs and a clerk with him to Tokyo and Osaka in Japan and to South Korea for eight days in June. The aim was to explore ways of persuading Japanese and South Korean firms to use Wales for more than simply assembling already manufactured parts, he said.

"The committee has been in existence since 1979 and has never ever been on a fact-finding tour abroad. Because the topic of our present inquiry is inward investment and we have been the most successful region in the UK in attracting it, we want to build on that."

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Claim cables to be

Dutch fl biggest

Good ca to chea

Claims that power cables cause cancer to be investigated

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Possible links between overhead power cables and cases of cancer and leukaemia in children living near them are to be investigated by the Central Electricity Generating Board, it was announced yesterday. The board has for many years resisted claims that there was any link.

The board is allocating £500,000 for the research, which includes mobile units to measure the strength of electro-magnetic fields inside homes. The measurements can be made from detector vans without the need for access to buildings.

Dr David Dowson, a GP in Hampshire, said last September that exposure to the fields from overhead cables — rather than radiation from nuclear power stations — might be a factor in causing cancer.

Dr Dowson then said that a study he made found a significant increase in depression and headaches among people living near two high voltage power lines at Ferndown, near Basingstoke. "Ferndown is also known as a cluster for leukaemia", he said.

Thousands of homes have been built near overhead cables, and everyone is also exposed to electro-magnetic fields from numerous other sources such as televisions and electric blankets.

Dr Robin Cox, chief medical officer of the Central

Electricity Generating Board, said studies around the world had not found any evidence that exposure to the fields presented a "significant" health risk to the public.

"Nevertheless, because we are all exposed to them, even the remotest possibility of an association should be thoroughly investigated", Dr Cox said.

Dr Cox said the generating board and the Electricity Council were funding two independent research projects at Leeds University, in collaboration with Manchester University, and by health authorities in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

The board said the electro-magnetic fields were not solely produced by overhead power lines. "It is electrical appliances and the wiring into homes."

Suggestions of a link between exposure to electro-magnetic fields and illnesses ranging from migraine and depression to cancer have been based on statistics.

While plenty is known about the changes produced by large electric and magnetic fields, there is little information on exposure to low levels.

Concern arose from two studies in the United States. In New York and in Denver. They found a possible correlation between children with cancer and their proximity to high sources of power.

The discovery that could explain the abnormally high cancer rates in people exposed to weak electro-magnetic fields, was by Dr Craig Byus and Dr Susan Pieper, of the University of California, and Dr W Ross Adey, of the Veterans Administration Medical Center, at Loma Linda, California.

They found that low electro-magnetic radiation increased the activity of an enzyme called ornithine decarboxylase in human, rat and mouse cancer cells grown in culture. The enzyme produces putrescine, a polyamine that stimulates cell growth.

Their experiments used electric and magnetic fields comparable to those produced by electric power lines.

It was discovered that radio-frequency and microwave fields only influenced cells if they were from power sources at frequencies below 100 hertz, or 100 cycles per second. This covers the frequency of power distribution in Britain.

The findings that weak fields can make cancer cells grow confirmed research by Dr Jerry Phillips, of the Cancer Therapy and Research Foundation in San Antonio, Texas.

He showed that human cancer cells exposed to fields of 60 hertz grew at between twice and 24 times the normal rate.

Film maker's footpath puzzle



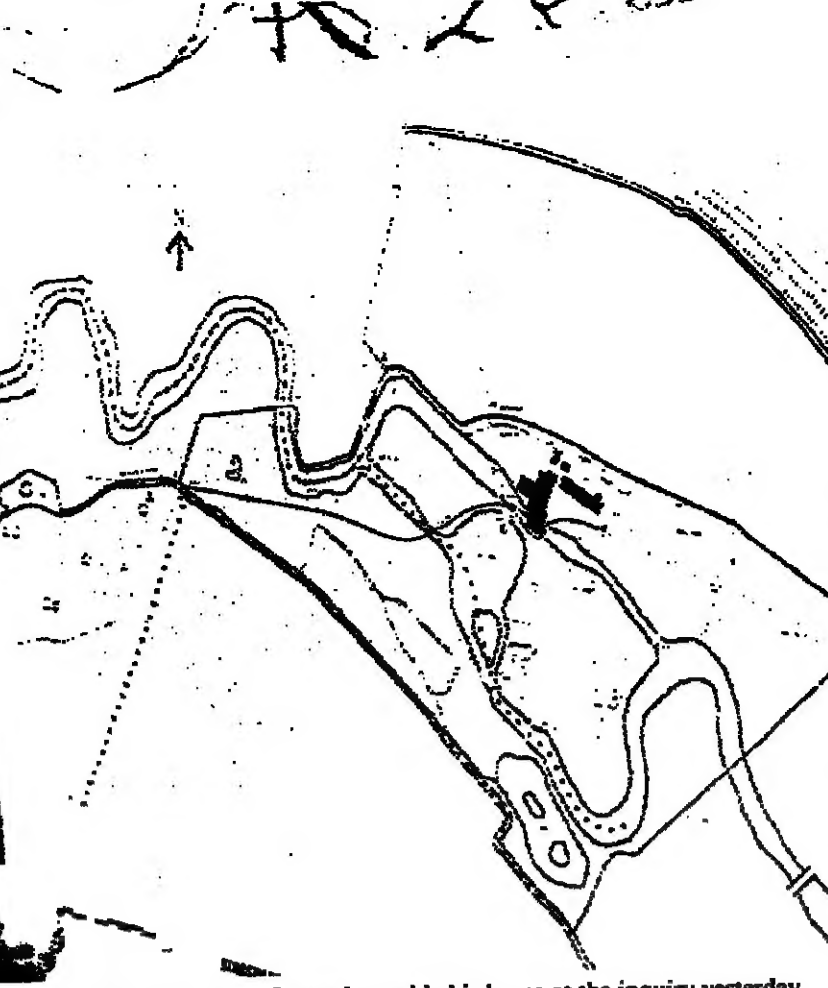
Mr David Puttnam, the film director, showing the route of the footpath outside his home at the inquiry yesterday.

David Puttnam, the film producer, spoke yesterday of how the tranquillity of his

sixteenth-century riverside retreat in the Cotswolds was twice invaded by intruders in his living room.

Mr Puttnam also disclosed at a public inquiry in his home village of Little Somerford, Wiltshire, that on two consecutive Saturdays he found motor cyclists doing manoeuvres known as "wheelies" in his courtyard.

Mr Puttnam, aged 46, who made the film *Local Hero*, and won a Hollywood Oscar for another film, *Chariots of Fire*, said



loss of privacy and security forced him to contact the police and to ask North Wiltshire District Council to divert an ancient footpath which passed through his courtyard.

The film maker, who is president of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, said there had been seven incidents in 1983, the year after he and his wife Patsy bought the 30-acre estate.

He said that he invested some £20,000 to create a longer, alternative path skirting the house 30 yards away, to

the north instead of the south during the four-year project. He has also planted 10,000 new trees and twofold flower gardens; and installed a bench where walkers can rest and an ornate bridge over the Avon.

Mr Michael Sexton, the inquiry inspector, was given a list of 19 objections, including Little Somerford parish council, opposing the footpath diversion. Many claimed, before the hearing, that the new route was less picturesque and led walkers away from a mill pond and mill wheel.

Racehorse trainer cleared of deception

A leading racehorse trainer was cleared yesterday of allegations that he had cheated a owner by overcharging him.

Charges against Roger Fisher, aged 45, of Priory road, Ulverston, Cumbria, were dropped after he changed his plea to guilty to what his counsel described as a technical offence involving a forged cheque.

Judge Lever directed the jury to return a formal not guilty verdict. He gave Fisher a two-year conditional discharge and ordered him to pay £500 towards prosecution costs on the offence he admitted.

Fisher said later: "It's not for me to say whether the sentence is fair or not. I never believed I had committed any crime from the word go."

He faced three charges of obtaining property by deception, two of theft and one of attempting to obtain property by deception, involving a total of £49,200, while the racehorse, Ekkaboko, was stabled at Bardsea, Cumbria.

Mr George Carmen, QC, for the defence, told Preston Crown Court that Fisher had admitted the further charge of forgery from the outset. He said Ekkaboko, owned by Mr Tawfiq Fakhouri, a Jordanian businessman, had died and was insured for £30,000, of which £4,000 lawfully belonged to Fisher.

Instead of forwarding the insurance cheque to Mr Fakhouri and waiting for him to pay the £4,000, he had decided to cut corners to obtain the money due to him.

Dutch flavour at biggest art fair

Dealers from all over Europe are converging on The Netherlands, for a vast art and antique fair which opens tomorrow. For nine days it will be the biggest, most international art market event of its kind, (five times the size of our Grosvenor House fair) with more than 100 dealers, and artefacts estimated at more than £100 million.

There are no fewer than 20 dealers from London, led by Mr Johnny van Haeften, the chairman. Although the organisers emphasize the centrality of Maastricht, close to France and West Germany, there is clearly a Dutch flavour to the goods on offer.

Mr van Haeften is unveiling a recent coup at the cost of a German auction house: a painting by Lucas van Valkenborgh and Georg Flegel, two German artists of the late sixteenth century. The work, "An Allegory of Summer", shows a beautiful woman surrounded with harvest goods, and has emerged as the missing scene from a group of paintings depicting the four seasons that has been lost since 1929.

"By coincidence I was looking through the catalogue and saw it", Mr van Haeften said. He persuaded a friend to bid on his behalf. The painting was estimated at 30,000 Deutschmarks, but he managed to secure it for DM 10,000. Now it is on sale for £65,000.

The rest of his stock includes an unforgettable painting.

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

ing by Pieter Bruegel the Younger of John the Baptist preaching to a crowd of Dutchmen. Some are listening in rapt attention, others are distinctly rowdy. A portrait of the artist in their midst shows him upstaging the preacher.

Among other English dealers is Wartski, specializing in Russian works of art, Spink (oriental), Richard Green (a portrait of a pretty girl proffering flowers by Jacob Cuyp, as well as some lesser Impressionist works, such as Henri le Sidaner's garden scene).

Among newcomers to the fair are 26 carpet dealers, who accompany an exhibition of carpets in paintings. They offer a chance to see these colourful items in their original contexts — usually covering the tables of the Dutch wealthy — while visitors can buy the few fragments that have survived until today.

There are two important carpets, both once in the collection of the Maharajah of Jaipur.

Sotheby's recorded a world record price for an Indian work of art at auction at New York on Wednesday. It was \$231,000 (£123,102) for two bronze figures, of Shiva and Parvati seated on double lotus thrones.

Weekend food prices

Good catch leads to cheaper fish

Fishermen have been rewarded with excellent landings, particularly of cod, whiting and coley, and the consumer is reaping the rewards as prices fall.

The average price of cod is down 6p a lb this week to £1.96. Haddock and codling are down 5p to £2.10 and £1.85 respectively. In the South lemon sole is a particularly good buy, down 12p, and Dover sole is down 20p, ranging from £2.20 to £6.

Good supplies of exotic fish include pomfret from India and Black Sea bream at about £3.20 a lb. Superb quality swordfish from the Mediterranean is about £6.50.

Lamb prices are up between 1p and 10p a lb. In the South-east, where there is usually more New Zealand lamb available, a whole leg costs from £1.36 to £2.38 a lb.

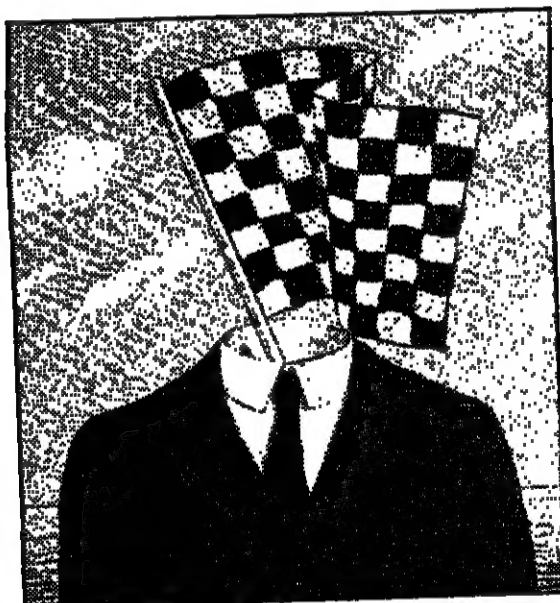
The biggest price rise is on best end chops, now £1.93 a lb in the South-east, £1.84 in the rest of England and Wales. The average price of whole shoulder is £1.03, but Sainsbury is selling it for 88p.

Beef prices generally are creeping up but the average price of rump steak is down 4p to £3.29 a lb in the South-east and boneless sirloin is down 2p to £3.36.

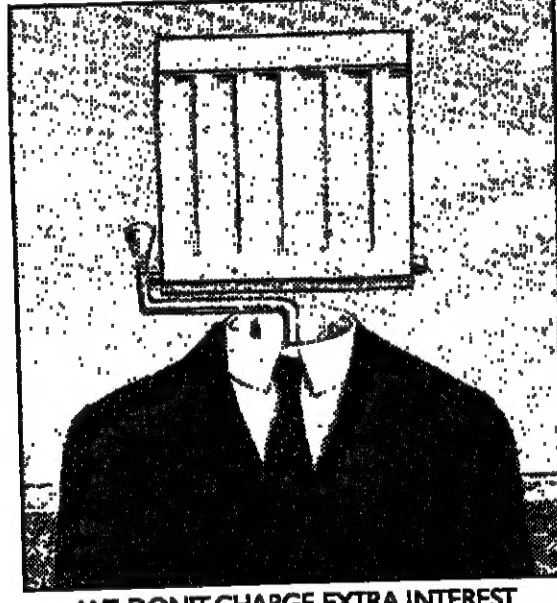
Although some cuts of pork is up it is still an economic buy. Whole leg costs between 89p and £1.29 a lb and boneless shoulder 98p to £1.55.

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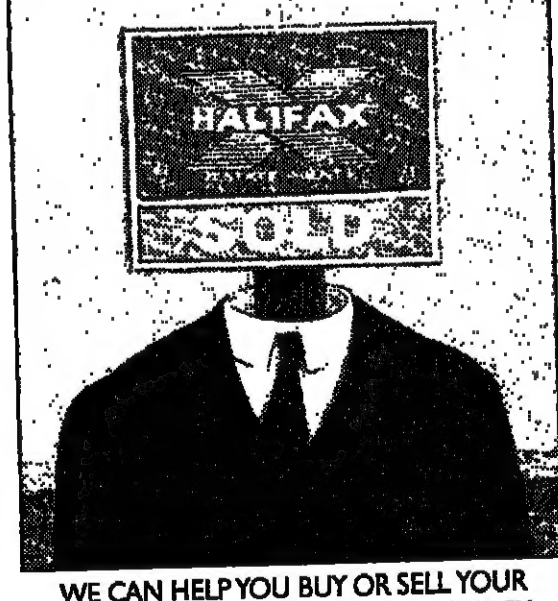
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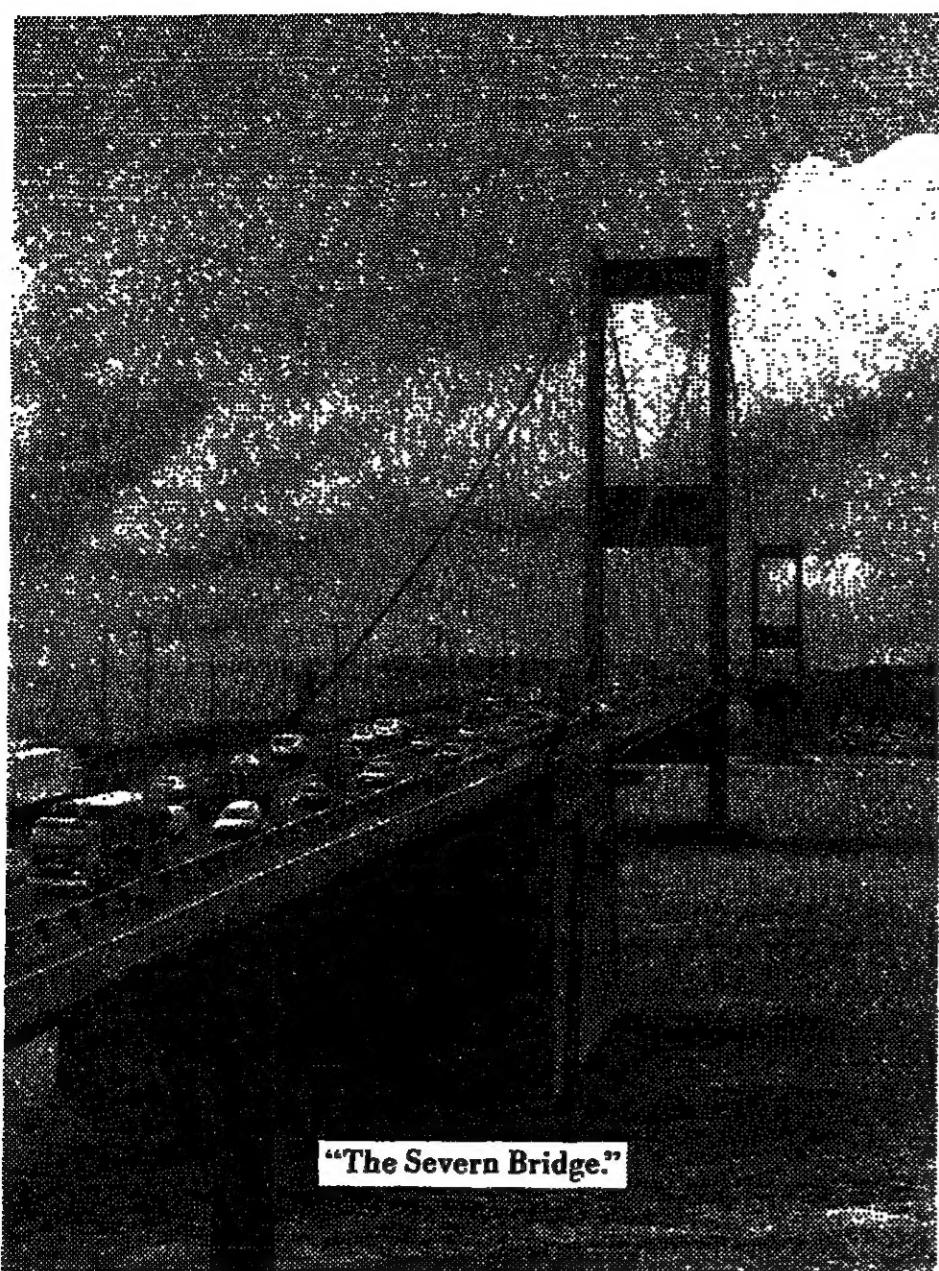
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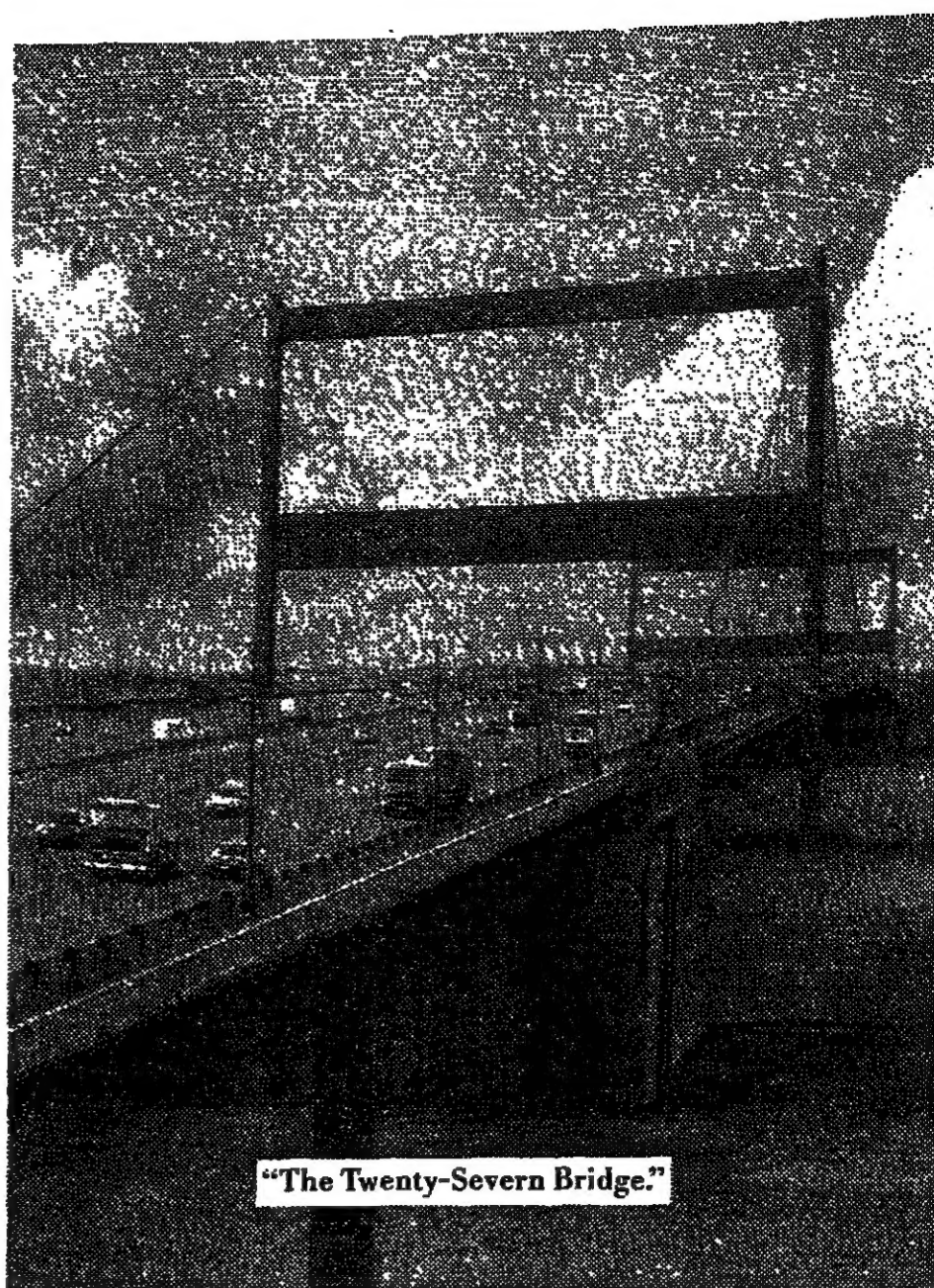


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College p

The Government should put at least £35 million into restructuring a staff college for teachers and deputies, with extra responsibilities under the Government's education reforms, the National Association of Head Teachers says.

The Government is planning to spend about £100 million

**THIS X
ANY-**

The Green

TRAD
DECO

Eurotech Scotland Exhibition

British scientists pioneer computer with 'laser vision'

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Scientists at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, have achieved a world first in the development of the next generation of computers, which will use laser light instead of electricity to make decisions.

The Eurotech Scotland Exhibition in Glasgow was told yesterday that a team at the university's physics department has constructed the first all-optic circuit capable of visual recognition, a notoriously difficult task for conventional computers.

Today's computers use the current flowing through microchips to carry out tasks and most can work on only one problem at a time, making them sluggish in tasks using a

lot of data, such as the recognition of a human face.

Because laser beams can be split into a myriad rays, the optically based computers of the future will be able to work on many problems simultaneously.

The Heriot-Watt machine uses holograms — three-dimensional images of objects captured on flat plates. They simulate the effect of dozens of tiny lenses, which split up the laser beam carrying the data needed to perform the recognition task.

The laser rays are then passed into special crystals which can carry out the function of microchips. They can both process the image being looked at by the machine, and

compare it to an image stored in the machine's optical memory.

Even the latest electronic supercomputers have difficulty recognizing images presented to them. The Heriot-Watt team hopes its laser-based machine will carry out the task almost instantaneously. It will be announcing the results of its breakthrough at an international conference in France next week.

Dr Mohammad Taghizadeh, of the physics department, said yesterday that so far the machine can recognize only one specific object because a new set of holograms has to be built for each new task. However, further research is under way to develop flexible holograms.

Despite the long history of whisky-making in Scotland, even the most famous distilleries remain baffled by the ability of barley to produce the all-important malt needed for Scotch.

The same barley from the same field can produce malt of dramatically different quality and the time taken for the barley to turn into malt can also vary wildly, holding up production for days.

Scientists working with an industrial partner, Rogarth Enterprises of Edinburgh, have now built a computer-controlled machine which grinds up small samples of barley and instantly calculates its vital malting quality.

Dean meets Chaucer's pilgrims



By Andrew Billen

The Dean of Canterbury, the Very Rev John Simpson, with wax models of the Wife of Bath and the Friar from *The Canterbury Tales*, at the City's Pilgrims Way Centre which opens tomorrow.

The centre gives the Disneyland treatment to Chaucer's pilgrims, truncating their 60-mile pilgrimage into a 250-yard turn around the inside of a renovated fourteenth-century church.

The interior of St Margaret's, Canterbury, has been turned into a £1.35 million reconstruction of the poem using audio-visual extracts, models of the pilgrims and the characters from their tales.

Visitors will start in a recreation of the Tabard Inn, Southwark, wend their way through mock-ups of medieval streets and landscapes and meet five of the pilgrims, who recount their tales.

The tour ends after a visit to the Checker of Hope Inn in a reconstruction of the tomb of Thomas Becket.

A spokesman said yesterday: "The attraction gives the flavour of Chaucer's tales, without encroaching on their academic integrity". It was designed to cater for 400,000 visitors a year and was created by Heritage Project Limited, which was behind the Jorvik Viking Centre, York.

The centre has been supported with grants from the English Tourist Board, Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council.

Mr Anthony Gaynor, managing director of Heritage Projects, said: "A very large number of tourists come to Canterbury every year, currently over two million, but after they have seen the cathedral they are rather poorly served. Most other visitors know about *The Canterbury Tales*, and most have heard about Thomas Becket. They would all like to learn more. Until now there has been little to help them."

(Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Vote of no confidence by forensic scientists

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Motions of no confidence in the management of the Home Office forensic service have been passed by its scientists after months of uncertainty over internal reorganization.

Morale is said to be so low that the Home Office has failed to find a candidate to replace Dr Margaret Pereira, the head of the service, who retires at the end of the month. The £33,000 post will be re-advertised next week.

This week the Institute of Professional Civil Servants met Treasury officials to discuss changes in the laboratories after a series of inspections and reports on the service in the past two years.

Five hundred scientists work for the service at seven laboratories. The Scottish police and the Metropolitan Police have their own laboratories, and are not affected.

The no-confidence motions were passed last month. The Home Office said the problems stemmed from uncertainty about the future and about grading.

Problems in the service began two years ago when an inspection at the laboratory in Chesham, Gwent, led to a recommendation for downgrading of posts. It was followed by a second inspection at the Birmingham laboratory and a study with the help of Touche Ross.

Negotiations are taking place about reducing the number of some senior posts.

In the past decade the use of the laboratories by police has accelerated, spurred partly by the greater sophistication of forensic techniques and partly because juries are less willing to accept police evidence.

Electronic potato to trace damage

An electronic potato has been developed by the Scottish Centre of Agricultural Engineering near Edinburgh to investigate the cause of millions of pounds' worth of damage to potatoes on their way from the field to the supermarket.

The now highly-mechanized process of harvesting and transport severely damages up to 10 per cent of the crop.

To track down the cause of the damage, scientists at the centre have built a potato-

shaped device, packed with microchips and pressure sensors, which memorizes the buffeting it receives on being dug out of the ground, sifted, graded, stored and then sent to market.

An electronic clock gives the time of the greatest impacts, enabling scientists to back-track through the process and find the cause.

The flexible circuitry used inside the potato can be modified to imitate other crops.

King's Cross inquiry

Staff absent for long meal breaks

Unofficial triple-length meal breaks left King's Cross Tube station seriously understaffed when the fatal fire broke out, the public inquiry into the disaster was told yesterday.

A member of the station staff, Miss Kathleen Ord, said only two ticket collectors were working when there should have been five. She admitted that she had been in a mess room when the station should have been at the barriers.

There were no Underground staff, apart from those in the booking office, to direct passengers away from the ticket hall in the last minutes before the fire killed 31 people, Miss Ord said.

Miss Ord, of Tufnell Park Road, Islington, north London, told the inquiry how her break in the staff mess room just off the ticket hall ended in panic when she was trapped there for nearly two hours by heat and thick smoke outside.

She said that as she struggled to block cracks and a vent through which smoke was seeping into the tiny room, she heard people running, screaming and choking outside. Then she realized everything had gone silent.

She faced a long series of questions about how she and the man trapped with her, Leading Railman Eddie Swaby, came to be there when both should have been at ticket barriers.

Miss Ord also admitted that Mr Swaby, who was "extremely large", was known regularly to sleep during his long breaks.

During the two hours before they were rescued by firemen, they drank a bottle of wine and some vodka she had in her locker, Miss Ord said.

One of the five ticket collectors roosted for duty had not returned to the station after a earlier hospital appointment.

Miss Ord agreed that had she and Mr Swaby been in the ticket hall, they could have helped police officers unfamiliar with the station.

Miss Ord told Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, she had worked at King's Cross since June 1986, and 90-minute breaks had been "an accepted practice".

She told Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, the inquiry chairman, that she would expect to see a station supervisor "one or two times maybe" during an evening shift and sometimes not at all.

Mr Carl Pilgrim, relief station manager, said he had worked at King's Cross on 21 occasions, including the night of the fire, but had never heard of staff taking a 90-minute meal break. But, questioned by Mr Henderson he agreed that he knew of no set times for meal breaks.

The inquiry continues today.

College plea for heads

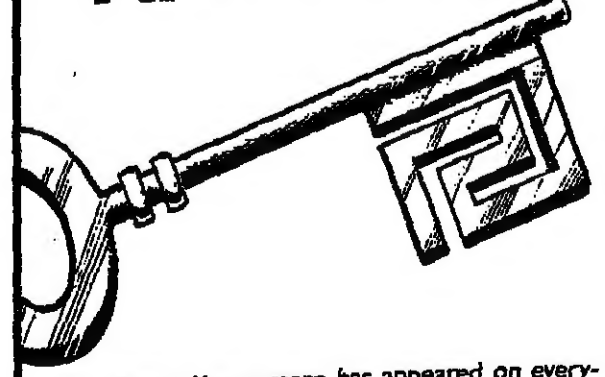
The Government should put at least £25 million into establishing a staff college for head teachers and deputies to cope with extra responsibilities under the Government's education reforms, the National Association of Head Teachers says.

The Government is planning to spend about £10 mil-

lion on training teachers to take over school finances and improve the efficiency of school management generally.

The association proposes a School Management Development Council, including people from outside education with managerial expertise, to co-ordinate training.

THIS KEY FITS ANYTHING



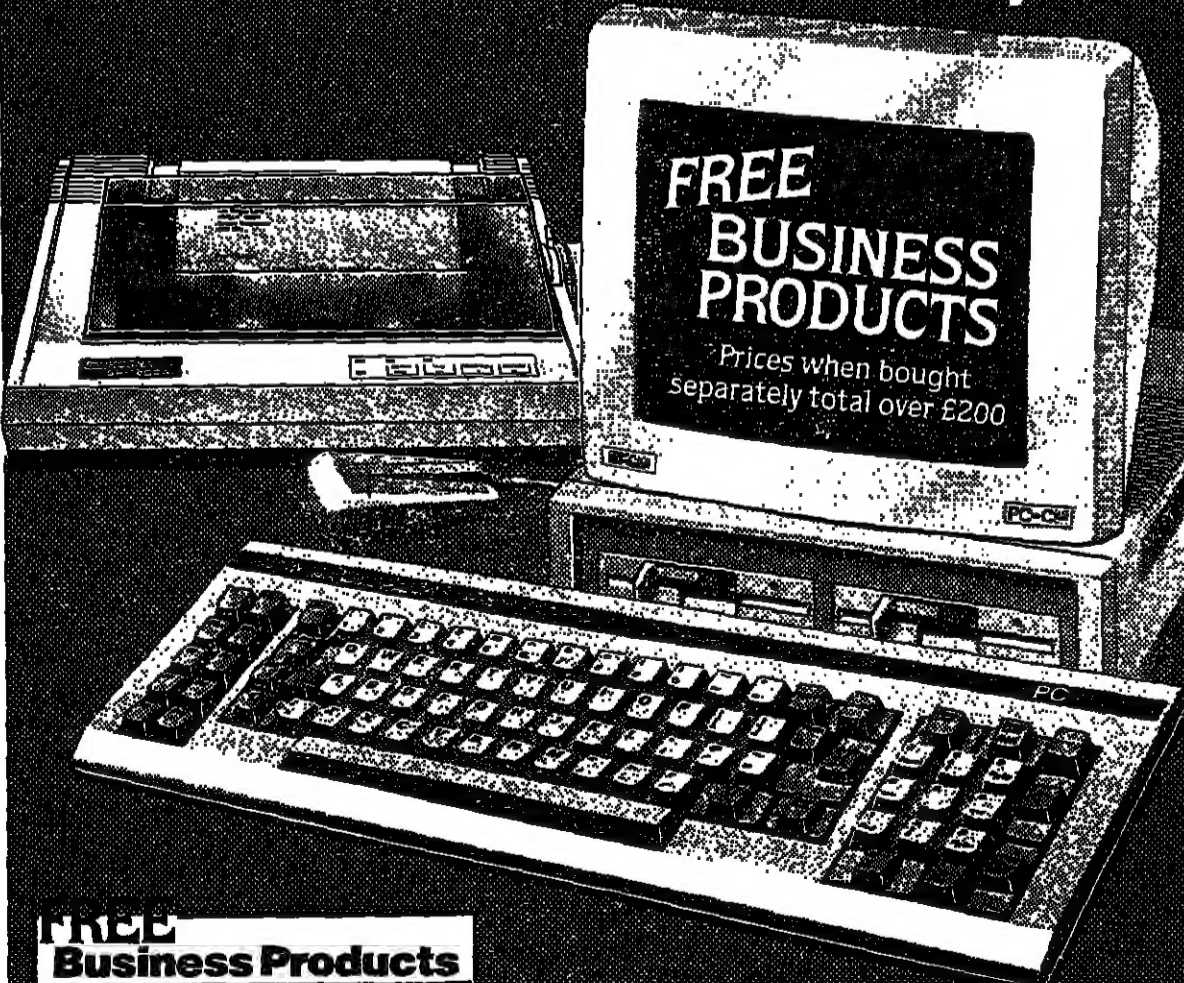
The Greek Key pattern has appeared on everything from temples to table lamps. The current issue of the magazine contains the first article in a series on the origins and use of classic motifs.

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Some confidence tricksters specialise in preying on the elderly, so be particularly wary of any unexpected caller, whether it's a man or a woman.

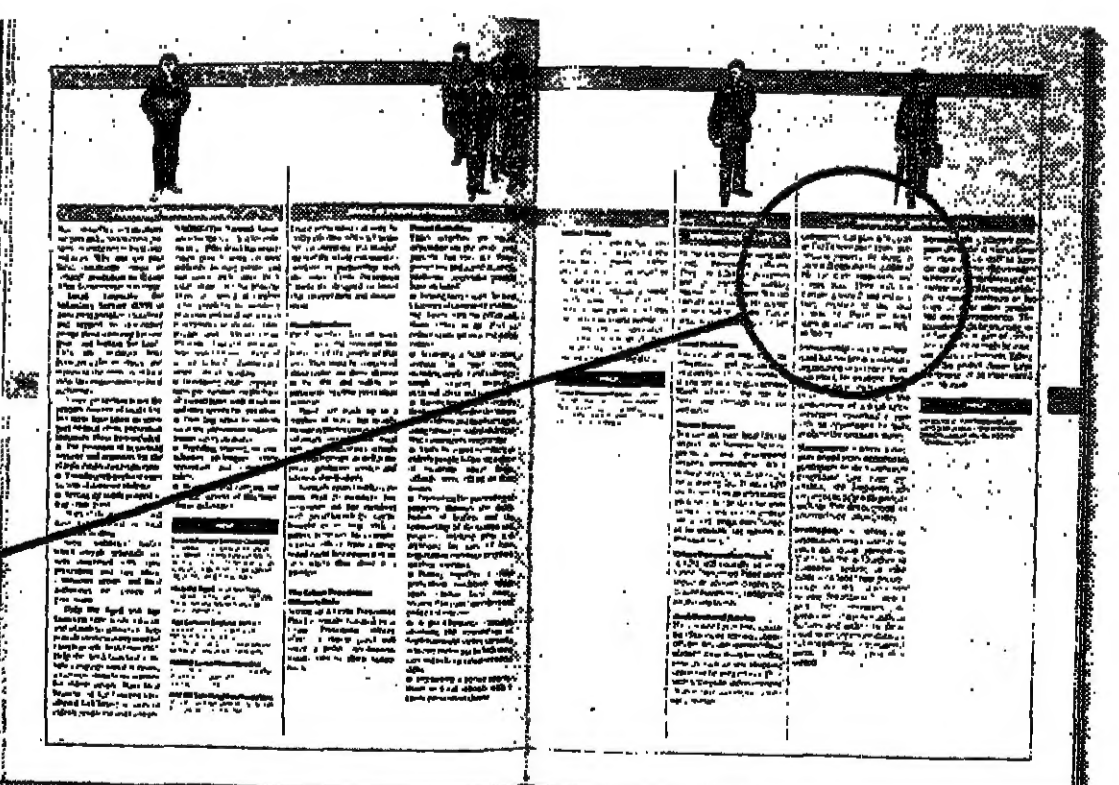
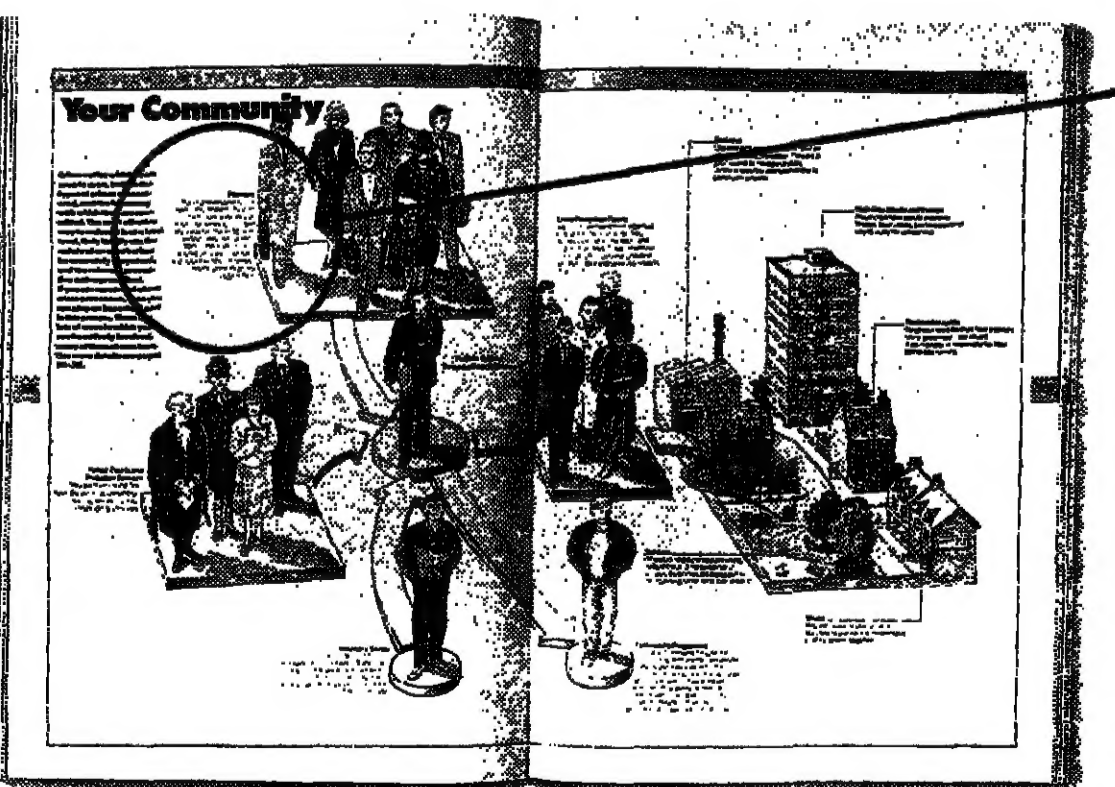
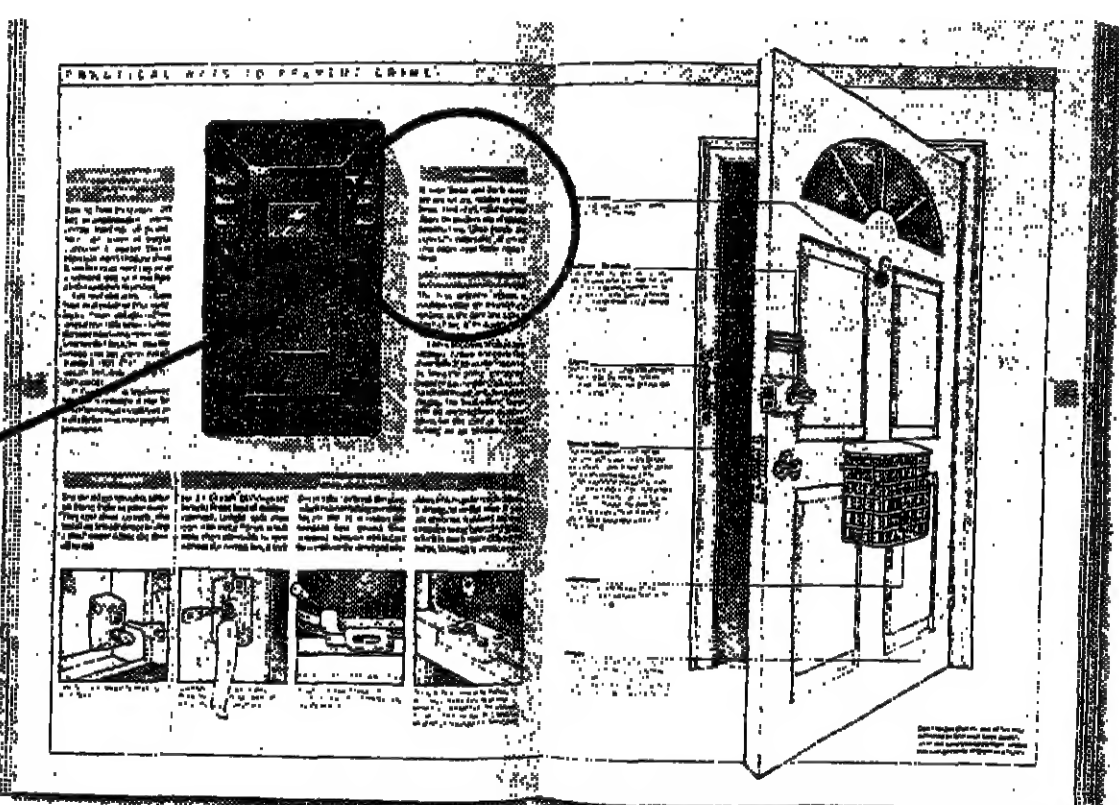
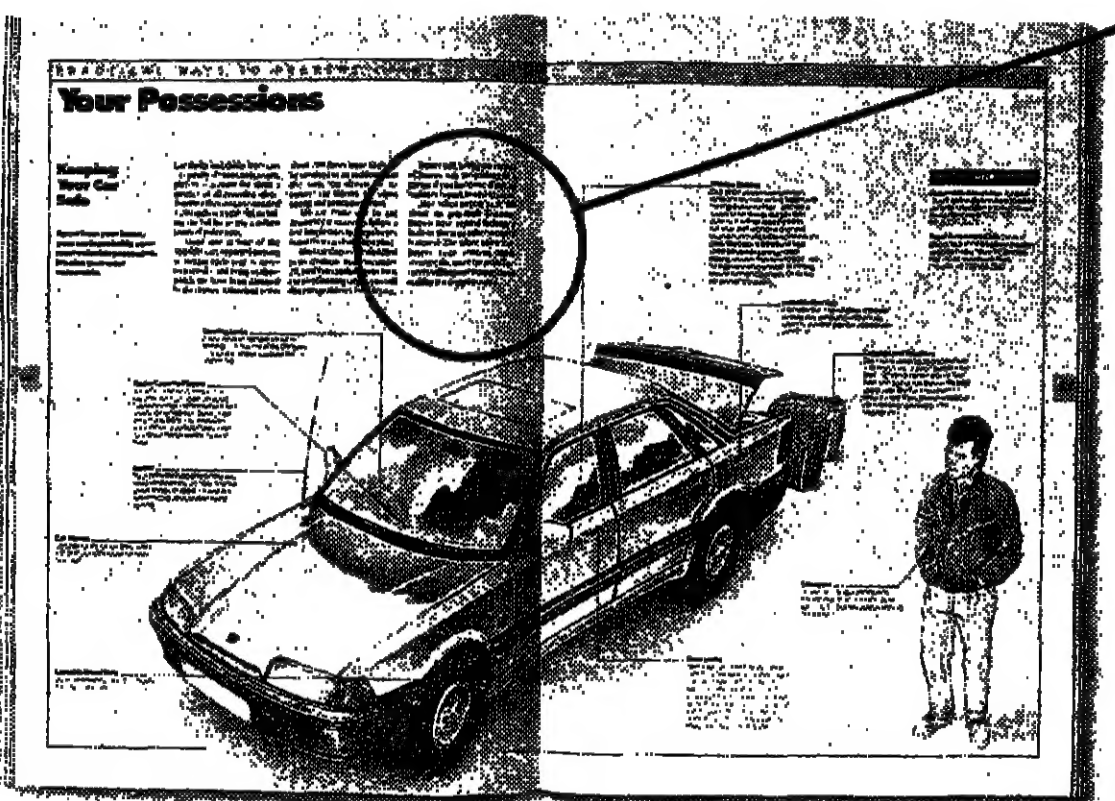
TO BE SAFE. Teach children that everyone has rights, such as the right to breathe, which should not be taken away. Tell children that no one should take away their right to be safe.

When buying a car, ask about its anti-theft features. Does it have centrallocking, a built-in alarm or other security features? The more often car-buyers voice concern about security, the more car manufacturers will become serious about making it a design priority.

If your front and back doors are not secure, neither is your home. First of all, make sure the doors themselves are of strong construction. Glass panels are especially vulnerable. If any of your doors seem flimsy, replace them.

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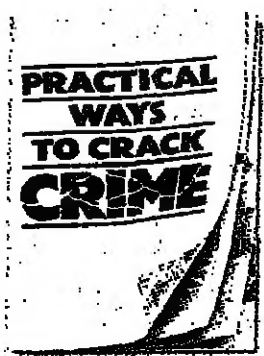
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WORLD ROUNDUP

US agreement on military forum

Moscow — The superpowers have agreed in principle to establish a new forum to resolve violent incidents between their respective armed forces as one of a number of moves towards easing East-West tension. The decision was taken at their first military summit, Mr Frank Carucci, the US Defence Secretary, announced in Bern yesterday (Christopher Walker writes).

Details of the framework of the new Soviet-American military forum will be one subject to be hammered out later this year when Marshal Sergei Akhromyev, the Soviet Chief of Staff, travels to Washington for talks with his American counterpart, Admiral William Crowe.

Hess is buried

Bonn — Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy, was yesterday buried quietly in his family's plot in a small town in Bavaria exactly seven months after his death at 93 in Spandau prison (John England writes).

About 200 police guarded the snow-covered cemetery at Wunsiedel as Hess's coffin was lowered into the grave at 8.30am. His wife, Ilse, was too ill to attend. The ceremony was kept secret until the last minute to avert neo-Nazi demonstrations.

Noriega bolstered

Panama City — General Manuel Noriega's position within the armed forces may actually have been strengthened by the failure of a military coup led by several high-ranking officers, according to Western diplomats and observers here (David Gollob writes).

The coup attempt is the first sign of a rift in the military. The Reagan Administration is counting on such a split, as opposed to street disturbances, to bring down the general.

Soviet space payload

Moscow (AP) — The Soviet Union launched its first satellite for a paying customer on yesterday, an official of the Glavkosmos space agency reported. He said an Indian satellite was lifted into orbit from the Baikonur spaceport in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan. Glavkosmos was created in 1986 to seek foreign customers for Soviet launchings, and this was its first on commercial terms, although further deals are under negotiation. The Indian satellite, called IRS, will be in orbit for three years, studying India's forests, waters and mineral deposits.

125 die in Iraq town bus crash 'taken'

Delhi (AFP) — About 125 wedding guests were killed when a bus they were travelling in crashed and burst into flames, the Press Trust of India reported yesterday.

There were only 26 survivors after the packed vehicle went into a culvert, on Wednesday night in Singa village, Madhya Pradesh state, in central India. Officials said 86 bodies had been recovered from the charred wreckage.

The operation had left 8,000 Iraqi army casualties, the radio said. Baghdad earlier conceded that its forces had evacuated Halabja.

Wild cheering broke out in the Palace of Justice's elegant courtroom, which was packed with friends and relatives of the six, as Judge W J Human declared: "I am of the opinion that there is sufficient material before me today to grant the stay of execution."

One of the lawyers representing the six, Mr Prakash Dhar, broke the news to an excited crowd of several hundred blacks outside who hoisted him on to their shoulders and sang freedom songs.

Miss Julia Mokoena, the sister of Mr Reid Mokoena, a factory worker who is one of the six, could only hold her face in her hands and say over and over again: "I am very happy." Like other relatives, she did not seem to have taken in that the stay of execution may be only temporary.

In tragic counterpoint to the jubilation, a powerful car bomb exploded outside the magistrate's court in Krugersdorp, 30 miles west of Johannesburg, killing three people, all blacks, and injuring 20 others, 17 whites and three blacks.

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adrian Vlok, announced last night that a white member of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), whom he identified as Mr Heinrich Johannes Grosskopf, was suspected of being involved. The police offered a reward of Rands 50,000 (£13,000) for information leading to his arrest.

Counsel for the six, Mr Denis Kuny, said that the time won by the stay of execution would be used to prepare an application for the re-opening of the trial. The judge agreed that "a reappraisal of the entire case" might be needed.

The essence of the new evidence is that a state witness, Mr Joseph Manete, may have given false testimony and implicated two of the six in the killing of Mr Dlamini after being assaulted by the police.

Mr Manete's statement, which conflicted with what he said later in court, could not be used as evidence without his consent. He was only persuaded to waive privilege earlier this week.

Counsel for the State, Mr Jan Hugo, contended that Mr Manete's evidence, whether true or false, would not alter the final verdict.

In Cape Town, the police arrested 29 white women belonging to the Black Sash civil rights group who assembled near Parliament yesterday morning with placards calling for clemency for the Sharpeville Six. They were later released. In Johannesburg riot police stormed the campus of the University of the Witwatersrand and broke up a protest against the threatened hangings.

● LONDON: In the Commons news of the temporary reprieve was welcomed on both sides of the House, but the Government refused opposition calls to step up action against South Africa.

Russians to quit Afghanistan, deal or no deal

From Michael Hamlyn
Geneva

Russia announced yesterday that it intended to pull its troops out of Afghanistan whether or not a peace agreement was hammered out here. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Moscow: "The Soviet Union took a decision to withdraw our forces, and we'll do just that."

He added that the Soviet Union would like the withdrawal to be within the framework of the Geneva documents, but if there is no agreement "we will do it ourselves. We will determine our needs and our own form of withdrawal".

The Soviet statement emphasizes

one of the curious facts about the negotiating process here: it does not really matter.

Despite all the press attention, the arrival of the delegations, the mutually abrasive press conferences, for two weeks now the Geneva peace talks on Afghanistan have been stalled, with nothing much happening, but neither side willing to break them off.

Certainly the United Nations mediator, Señor Diego Cordovez, has been making optimistic noises, and asserting that all participants are working hard on hammering out the details of the final agreement, but the reality is that the actual negoti-

ing is no longer going on in Geneva at all.

The hard bargaining is being done between the Russians and the Americans at a high level, and the only time there is any movement at the Palais des Nations here is when one of the superpowers decides to make a concession or a demand.

The Geneva negotiations are likely to get a new injection of life after the meeting next week between Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State. The question of symmetry in the Afghan accords is on the agenda in Washington, and Mr Zain Noorani, the Pakistan Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs, said that it was all right by him if the US and the Soviet Union solved that issue between themselves, just so long as they kept everybody fully informed about what they had decided.

On the interim government question, the Pakistanis will be left to battle it out alone. Already the political outcry in Pakistan itself against President Zia's stand has compelled a softening of the original position that the Pakistanis would only sign the Geneva accords with a new Kabul government.

The Parliamentary opposition, the extra-Parliamentary opposition, and even Mr M. K. Junjo, the Prime Minister, are reported to be

urging a quick signature and as early a start as possible to the Russian withdrawal.

Accordingly, the Pakistan position has softened to one of urging merely the calling of an all-party Afghan conference, if necessary using the technique of proximity talks, to discuss the setting up of a broad-based government. The talks could best be held in Geneva or Vienna, Mr Noorani suggested, and there would have to be some way of guaranteeing that they would continue to a successful conclusion after Pakistan signs the Geneva accords.

So far, the signs are not looking good for this plan.

Sharpeville Six win stay of execution after new evidence

From Michael Horanshy, Pretoria

The five black men and one black woman known as the Sharpeville Six, due to be hanged at dawn today, were granted a stay of execution until April 18 by the Supreme Court in Pretoria yesterday after the last-minute submission of new evidence that a black state witness might have perjured himself.

The six were convicted two years ago of the murder of a black township councillor in Krugersdorp, 30 miles west of Johannesburg, killing three people, all blacks, and injuring 20 others, 17 whites and three blacks.

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adrian Vlok, announced last night that a white member of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), whom he identified as Mr Heinrich Johannes Grosskopf, was suspected of being involved. The police offered a reward of Rands 50,000 (£13,000) for information leading to his arrest.

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● LONDON: In the Commons news of the temporary reprieve was welcomed on both sides of the House, but the Government refused opposition calls to step up action against South Africa.



Friends of the Sharpeville Six celebrating outside the Supreme Court in Johannesburg yesterday after the judge granted a stay of execution to the six, due to be hanged today.

Israel attacks guerrilla base

By Our Foreign Staff

Israeli jets yesterday demolished a Palestinian guerrilla base in the Druze-controlled Chouf mountains, killing one guerrilla and injuring several other people, including a two-year-old boy. It was Israel's deepest strike into Lebanon since the 1982 invasion and the second air attack in six days.

Six fighter-bombers fired rockets at a hilltop post of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the village of Schemlan. The explosions echoed throughout Beirut, only nine miles away.

In an attempt to break the power of the leaders of the Palestinian unrest in the occupied territories, Israel has begun a policy of trying to force Palestinians to do the opposite of what they are

instructed by leaflets circulated illegally.

A new series of night-time arrests has also begun, with 150 people reported to have been detained on Wednesday night during swoops in Nabulus, Jenin, Kabatiya and Hebron.

Elsewhere, there was a general return to work after two days of a total strike in which violent demonstrations brought the death by shooting of six Palestinians. Palestinian sources reported a further death on Wednesday night of a man, aged 55, who collapsed after inhaling teargas at Amari camp.

The trials have also begun of three Israeli soldiers charged with aggravated assault for burying four Palestinians alive, and of two

soldiers and an officer who were filmed beating two Palestinians.

Two of the soldiers seen in the television film have already been sentenced, one to ten days' detention and the other to 21 days' detention.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister had a final round of talks with Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, but failed to break the deadlock over the American peace proposals for the Middle East.

However, President Reagan has left open the possibility that Mr Shultz may now make another visit to the region.

Despite the gulf between the two sides, US officials said that the Administration's initiative was still very much alive.

THE YOUTH IN SOUTH AFRICA CAN CHOOSE

REVOLUTION...

"For the battles ahead, the mass organisation of the youth must be strengthened... to impart to them the skills that are necessary for them to carry out their tasks as shock troops of the revolution."

Oliver Tambo, President of the African National Congress (ANC), 8th January 1987.

"The school, the college, the university is for us more than a place for formal education. It is also our assembly point, the location at which we marshal our forces."

Oliver Tambo, 8th January 1987.

"The youth, for instance, in our country have been actually carrying out actions of the people's war."

Oliver Tambo, 12th May 1987.



EVOLUTION

The South African Government believes our youth should be prepared for the future South Africa.

Since 1950, the South African Government has built more than one school per school day for black students.

Since 1950, the number of black students has increased from 747,000 to 4.5 million.

Since 1965, enrolment by black students at universities has increased by more than 2000%.

"I should like today to repeat the Government's commitment to equal provision of education for all population groups..."

State President P. W. Botha, January 1986.



To the Counsellor Media and Information, South African Embassy, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DP

I WISH TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRUE NATURE OF THE ANC ☐

I WISH TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE REAL SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS ☐

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NAME

ADDRESS

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And every British Midland flight to Amsterdam is Diamond Service. Which means you get the full Business Class treatment.

If you are flying to Amsterdam, you know which airline means business.

HEATHROW - AMSTERDAM	AMSTERDAM - HEATHROW	HEATHROW - AMSTERDAM
07.00	09.00	07.25
08.15	10.15	08.30
11.00	13.00	11.30
12.15	14.15	12.30
14.15	16.15	14.30
16.15	18.15	16.30
18.15	20.15	18.30
20.15	22.15	21.00



THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS BETWEEN HEATHROW AND AMSTERDAM.

B R I T I S H M I D L A N D

Party boss of Azerbaijan riot city sacked

Moscow (Reuter) — The Communist Party chief of the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait, where Armenians were hunted and killed last month, has been dismissed for "major shortcomings" in his work, according to Soviet information officials in the area.

The officials, contacted by telephone from Moscow, said the mayor of the city, the scene of the Soviet Union's worst known ethnic riots in decades, was also dismissed.

The new Sumgait city party leader, Mr Salekh Gadzhiev, has since 1986 been Prime Minister in Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijani enclave inside Armenia on the Soviet border with Turkey and Iran.

The new mayor, Mr R.S. Eminbeili, according to editors at the Azerbaijani party newspaper *Bakinsky Rabochy*, had been director of an aluminium plant in Sumgait, where 32 people are officially said to have been killed in anti-Armenian riots. The officials identified his disgraced predecessor as T.Y. Mam-edov.

Azerbaijani radio in Baku, the republic's capital, said a meeting of Sumgait Communists was told there had been "tragic consequences" for the city of mistakes by the party chief, Mr D.M. Muslim-zade.

The radio said Azerbaijan's party leader, Mr Kiyamran Bagirov, had addressed the meeting, at which Mr Muslim-zade was accused of "major shortcomings in organisational and political work ... and non-party behaviour".

Armenians arriving in Moscow from Sumgait have said that Azerbaijani youths had committed atrocities.

A senior Soviet prosecutor, in an interview with *Bakinsky*

Rabochy, has described the riots which began on February 28 as a pogrom and said "terrible crimes" were committed.

Nakhichevan was also traditionally part of Armenia, but like Nagorno-Karabakh was assigned by Moscow in the early 1920s to Azerbaijan in what both Soviet and Western historians say was a deal to boost Soviet relations with Turkey.

● Britain blamed: Soviet historians have obtained new material which shows that British occupying forces in Azerbaijan, during the Civil War that followed the 1917 Russian Revolution, "poured oil" on to inter-ethnic strife which persists to this day in the southern region (A Correspondent writes).

At a news conference yesterday, a panel of Soviet historians said that actions by Britain, Germany, Turkey and the United States from 1917 to 1921 had prepared a "fertile soil" for the ethnic unrest.

They said that the foreign powers, who were engaged in bitter rivalry in the southern region after the First World War, had plundered eastern Transcaucasia's natural resources, in addition to "double dealing" with the local Armenians and Azerbaijanis. Armenians are mainly Christian, while Azerbaijanis are Shia Muslims.

The Germans had taken manganese, tobacco, cotton and "even matches" according to Mr Yuri Polyakov, chairman of the Soviet Centre for Historical Demography and Geography. He said a Soviet colleague working in India had unearthed "new evidence" about the role of the British in Azerbaijan, which would be published before the end of this year.



Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa waving to a crowd in Ljubljana, whose welcome was less fervent than Belgrade's.

Gorbachov visits go-ahead Slovenia

Ljubljana, Yugoslavia (Reuter) — Soviet economic reforms are forcing Yugoslav companies to change their ways, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, heard yesterday during a visit to Yugoslavia's most prosperous republic.

Mr Gorbachov was touring the country's biggest electronics firm, Iskra Avtomatika, in the republic of Slovenia, which some analysts say is the most economically advanced region in the Communist world.

"Before, we dealt with mis-

istries, now we have to deal directly with Soviet companies. We have to start working differently," Mr Franc Sirkovic, the company's general director told him in a reference to the Soviet *perestroika* (restructuring) policy.

"Restructure yourselves," said Mr Gorbachov with a smile, prompting laughter.

Iskra Avtomatika designs and builds industrial computer systems.

Mr Gorbachov and his aides have linked the Kremlin re-

form drive to the technological revolution in the West.

The Soviet leader's wife, Mrs Raisa Gorbachov, also present at the talks, appeared disappointed when Mr Sirkovic told her there were no facilities at the plant to care for workers' children. "What, no nursery," she said.

Mr Gorbachov on Wednesday met Mr Milan Kucan, Slovenia's Communist party head, who is considered one of Yugoslavia's most progressive leaders.

Western diplomats say Mr Kucan has gone further than any other Communist leader, including the former Czechoslovak party chief, Mr Alexander Dubcek, in granting press freedom.

Although a Slovenian Information Ministry official told reporters Mr Gorbachov was second in popularity only to the Pope in Slovenia, the crowd of about 1,000 which welcomed him in Ljubljana was cooler than those in the capital, Belgrade.

US presses its Honduras ally to save Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Tegucigalpa

Honduras was under strong diplomatic pressure from the United States yesterday to mount air strikes and provide ground support to save the Nicaraguan Contras from a crushing military defeat.

Contra sources in Miami said that El Cuartelón, the main rebel command centre just inside Nicaragua along the border with Honduras, was being stormed by Nicaraguan troops.

The principal rebel supply base, in the region of San Andrés de Bocay on the Honduras side of the Coco river, is under siege from artillery and aerial bombing. Most remaining rebel supplies of ammunition and equipment were moved to the region in recent weeks and their loss would be the death knell for the beleaguered fighters. An offensive was simultaneously mounted against Contra positions in a remote border area of Nicaragua's Jinotega province.

The US appeal to Honduras came as 3,150 American combat troops started arriving yesterday in a show of commitment to the Contras, who are threatened with imminent collapse if the US Congress refuses further aid.

They will be deployed in the Palmerola air base near Comayagua in central Honduras, about 160 miles from the fighting. More than 3,000 US National Guard and Army Reserve troops are already in the country for exercises and road-building projects.

President Reagan ordered the deployment of two battalions of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division and two battalions of the 7th Infantry Light Division. Most of the men will disperse into the countryside with Honduran troops on exercises, according to senior American officials, and will observe an earlier congressional edict to stay at least 20 miles away from the Nicaraguan border.

President Reagan formally approved the deployment shortly after receiving a diplomatic message from President Azcona of Honduras in which he called for "effective and immediate assistance to maintain the sovereignty and integrity" of Honduras.

There can be little doubt that Señor Azcona was pressured by Washington to make the request. In March, 1986, he was persuaded to seek US help after an alleged border crossing by Nicaraguan troops. This resulted in congressional approval of new Contra aid.

In 1986 the US transported Honduran troops by helicopter to the rugged border region, which brought loud protests from congressional Democrats. Honduras has displayed a marked reluctance to mount hostilities at the Administration's behest, despite being so subject to US pressure because of its heavy dependence on economic aid.

In recent months the Honduran Government has become increasingly disenchanted with the Contras and has forced them to close down some of their bases in the dense jungles along its southern border.

The US estimates that 1,500 Sandinista troops crossed into Honduras, but there were no independent accounts of the scope of the raids. Another 4,500 troops were said to be engaged in an offensive against the Contras inside Nicaragua.

The rebels decided early last month to start moving supplies closer to the border in anticipation of a congressional cut-off of further aid. They are held in the thickly forested area and the rebels do not have the facilities to move them to a safer location quickly. The CIA has been involved closely in the supply movements; clearly Nicaraguan intelligence was well informed and knew exactly where to strike.

Nicaragua has virtually no Air Force, but has converted some Soviet-made Antonov transport planes into makeshift bombers.

The Sandinistas have been bombing from a high altitude because the rebels are equipped with US-made Red-eye ground-to-air missiles. The Sandinistas have Mi24 helicopter gunships, however, and have been using heavy artillery and rockets in the current wave of fighting.

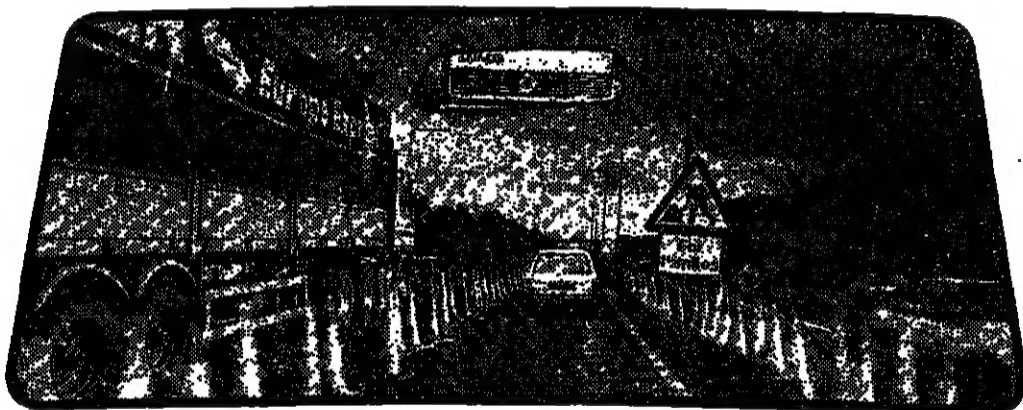
● WASHINGTON: President Reagan's hasty dispatch of troops to Honduras has provoked uproar on Capitol Hill (Michael Binyon writes). The Pentagon has also been taken by surprise.

Officials appeared unsure about the operational aims. And Democrats are angrily accusing the Administration of manipulating the crisis to force Congress to reinstate military aid for the Contras.

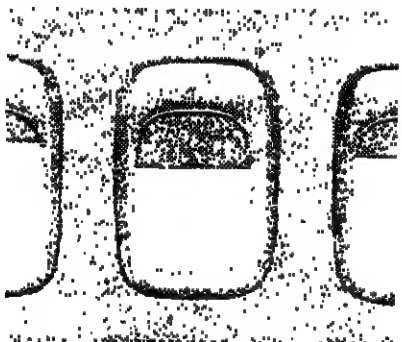
Many congressmen have accused the White House of overreacting to the situation and of deliberately misleading Congress.

Leading article, page 17

What are your views on business travel?



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INTERCITY

A message from the Chancellor.

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A 20-a-day habit will now cost you £11 a week.

Of course, the tens of thousands of smokers who did manage to give up on No Smoking Day will be that much better off.

But if you tried and failed, we hope you'll try again. Think what you could do with the money.

In a year, £11 a week adds up to the price of a holiday. Or a hi-fi system. Or a washing machine.

And even if you don't put the money aside, you'll be making far fewer trips to the bank.

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can
seriously
damage
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P R E S S F O R A C T I

Brussels warning over slow progress to unified market

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The European Commission yesterday expressed its "disappointment" over lack of progress towards a unified internal market.

Mr Peter Sutherland, the EEC Commissioner for competition policy, said that the campaign to create a single European market by 1992 had "caught the European imagination".

But he warned that the EEC still faced "an immense task". He was speaking as the Commission released a progress report showing that, of the 300 planned internal market measures, only 69 have been approved so far and six partly approved by the Council of Ministers.

"The rewards will be great if we succeed, the cost will be great if we fail," Mr Sutherland said in Paris.

Lord Cockfield, the Internal Market Commissioner, warned

that the 1992 programme was slipping. He said the Commission would table 90 per cent of its proposals by the end of the year, and urged the Council of Ministers and the European



Parliament — which has been given a greater role in EEC decisions — to speed up the process.

EEC trade ministers meet next Tuesday in Brussels to review the situation. Proposals still awaiting approval include the harmonization of

veterinary controls, permitted food additives, and pharmaceutical standards; the opening of public contracts to cross-frontier competition; and key liberalizing measures in banking, transport, company law, and taxation.

EEC transport ministers this week failed to make progress on liberalizing the road haulage industry because of West German objections.

Mr Sutherland said effective control of company mergers within the EEC had been made more pressing because of the 1992 deadline.

Although "concentrations of market power" had an adverse effect, there was a growing acceptance among European firms that Europe as a whole was their home market, and this had given rise to a growing number of cross-frontier mergers. There therefore had to be a system of EEC

control of mergers, since it was questionable whether mergers between companies in different EEC states could remain subject to "differing national laws".

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany this month vowed to make completion of the internal market a priority for the remaining months of Bonn's EEC presidency, which ends in July.

Security warning: Lord Plumb, president of the European Parliament, yesterday called for a common European security and defence policy to complement EEC moves toward economic and political union.

Speaking at the University of Leiden in The Netherlands, Lord Plumb said that, as it approached completion of the internal market in 1992, Europe was in danger of being "an economic giant but a political pygmy".

Man in the News

Irishman tipped for top EEC post

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

Mr Peter Sutherland is Ireland's representative in the 17-man European Commission. Formerly the youngest-ever Irish Attorney-General, he is still only 41 and has been in charge of EEC competition policy for the past four years, using the post to widen Brussels's powers over cross-frontier company mergers as the single market in 1992 approaches.

There is now an increasingly open campaign, regarded by some officials as over-ambitious, by others as admirable, to make Mr Sutherland president of the Commission when the current Commission's four-year mandate expires at the end of the year.

Whether the presidency is available will depend on two key events in the next few months: the French presidential election next month and the EEC summit in Hanover in June. Mr Jacques Delors, president of the Commission since 1985, is a former French Finance Minister, and has made no secret of his desire to return to French politics in the right circumstances. Aides have let it be known that Mr Delors would not mind being

French Prime Minister after the presidential election.

On the other hand, the call to the Hotel Matignon may



Mr Sutherland: Widening powers to vet mergers.

not come, especially if M Jacques Chirac becomes President of France. In that case, the 12 EEC national leaders, who appoint the Commission, could ask M Delors to stay on for another two years.

With this scenario increasingly on the cards, attention is turning to the other portfolios. The Hanover summit is three months away, but the jostling for position is going on now. Britain, like West Germany,

France, Spain and Italy, has two commissioners: Lord Cockfield, a former Tory Cabinet minister, who has the crucial internal market portfolio and is vice-president of the Commission; and Mr Stanley Clinton-Davis, formerly a junior minister under Labour, who handles transport, the environment and nuclear safety.

By convention one British commissioner is Conservative, the other Labour. But West Germany has already abandoned a similar unwritten rule. As 1992 approaches, and the EEC's direct role in British political and economic life grows inexorably, the Prime Minister may want Britain's men in Brussels to represent her own outlook. Lord Cockfield, who will be 72 in September, is deemed by No. 10 to have "gone native" since arriving here. He may survive the reshuffle but his frequent clashes with the Government over plans for harmonizing indirect taxation (VAT and excise duties) seem to point in one direction: honourable retirement.

The risk is that whoever succeeds Lord Cockfield might well also "go native".

On the other hand, if Britain relinquishes the internal market portfolio in the coming reshuffle, the leading contender for the job is probably none other than Mr Sutherland, especially if M Delors holds onto the presidency.

A large, cigar-smoking man with the build and outlook of a former University College, Dublin, rugby player, Mr Sutherland has unflinchingly tackled giant companies over cartel practices.

Together with Mr Clinton Davis, Mr Sutherland has pushed through liberalization of air transport in Europe, and is now steadily widening Brussels's powers to vet proposed mergers within the EEC.

Although he belongs to the opposition Fine Gael and not to the ruling party of Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Sutherland would presumably have Dublin's support in going either for the Commission presidency or the internal market portfolio. In the run up to Hanover, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey will clearly have more to talk about than Northern Ireland and the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Racism enters French election

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

Slowly but surely, the French presidential election campaign is beginning to reflect the potential importance of the votes to be won by exploiting the issues of race and immigration.

Barely a month after a nationwide survey found that the vast majority of the electorate believed these should, and would, be important themes in the run-up to polling day, the main parties are carefully staking out positions in the battle for what might well be decisive support in a tight finish.

The basic arithmetic before the strategists looks dramatic enough. The 1981 presidential contest was decided by a margin of about 600,000 votes. Since then, anything up to half a million *beurs*, second-generation descendants of immigrants from North Africa, have become eligible to vote.

On the other side of the coin, the size of the "conscious vote", representing the French *peuple noir* formerly settled in North Africa, is now estimated at about 800,000.

Among a great many of France's young *beurs*, there is deep and pervasive cynicism about the election. "Tell me one thing voting will do to change my life, go on tell me," demands one teenager, marooned without a job, increasingly without hope, in a crumbling public housing complex in Marseilles.

Under the increasingly active direction of the SOS-Racisme movement, a drive to persuade these disillusioned youngsters to get on the electoral list has been under way for months.

"If you don't vote, it's a vote for him... Is2," warns one poster, beneath an unflattering photograph of M Jean-Marie Le Pen, head of the ultra-right National Front party.

Despite the widespread assumption that immigrants who do turn out will overwhelmingly back the French left, community leaders still refuse to endorse any candidate publicly. The 1981-86 years of Socialist government saw a degree of liberalization for immigrants already in France, but *beurs* also remember how the rules were tightened to prevent families arriving from North Africa and how illegal immigrants were speedily expelled.

On the other hand, as *Le Monde* noted after the big "rally for equality" in Paris last weekend, certain signals are becoming clear enough. President Mitterrand, though



President Mitterrand pinning the Military Medal on a Foreign Legion soldier yesterday in Paris. The soldier, aged 22, from Luxembourg, had his foot blown off by a mine in Chad.

still not officially in the running for the Socialists, did himself no harm with a visit to a school in one of the capital's most deprived immigrant quarters. "At the end of the day," concedes one immigrant leader, "you'll probably see us supporting the least worst candidate."

With M Le Pen's first-round support apparently holding steady at about 10 per cent, he may soon decide to go for broke on the racial issue to improve National Front bargaining power in the run-off. Depending who you listen to, M Le Pen has already wrapped up between 40 per cent and 50 per cent of the *peuple noir*'s vote.

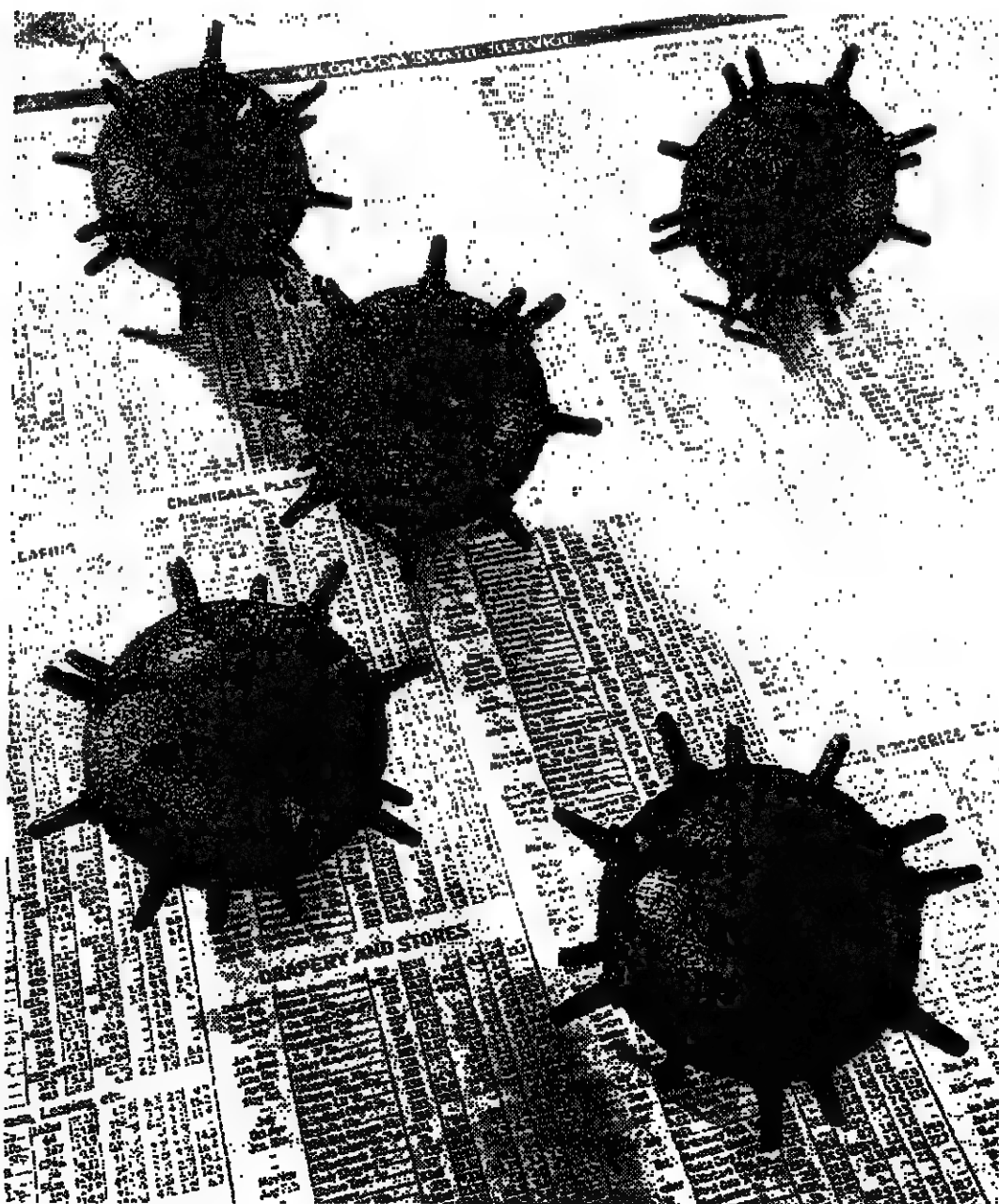
It is an article of faith in M Le Pen's inner circle that large numbers of men and women decline to tell opinion polls they are thinking of backing the National Front for fear of being branded as racists. It is certainly not difficult to find individuals who will tell you this, though coloured immigrants are by no means their only obsession.

Predictably, this fertile ground has not escaped the notice of the more "respectable" right, to the extent that M Le Pen now complains about his policies being hijacked. The Chirac campaign, masterminded by that formidable fighter M Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister,

is already busy putting out its own electoral signals.

In Marseilles the Prime Minister said that, while he found racism indefensible, "I can understand it." M Pasqua reminded another election meeting that his Government was busy protecting "our people" by busting illegal immigrants over the border.

More cautiously, M Raymond Barre, generally held to be more of the centre than his rival, also appears to be adjusting his sights on the immigration issue. Once an advocate of a "multi-cultural" France embracing different ethnic groups, he is now pledged to keeping a vigilant eye on "our national identity".



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Esso explodes a few myths about UNLEADED

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MYTH
MYTH
MYTH
MYTH



The Chancellor's Budget announcement of a price incentive in favour of unleaded petrol is welcome news.

But it raises questions in the minds of some motorists who are unsure about running their cars on unleaded petrol.

So we thought we should correct some popular misconceptions in order to help motorists who want to take advantage of the lower price.

MYTH It costs a small fortune to convert your engine to run on unleaded petrol.

FACT 60% of cars produced since mid 1985 are capable of running on unleaded petrol. Some require no adjustment at all; others only require retuning the engine to suit unleaded petrol's 95 octane. Retuning could cost as little as £10—so think of all those pence per gallon you'll be saving. Ask for a quotation from your dealer.

MYTH Performance and economy are reduced significantly on unleaded petrol.

FACT The experience of motorists who have made the change shows that hardly anyone will detect any difference in either performance or economy.

MYTH Unleaded petrol is the equivalent of 2-star leaded petrol.

FACT Unleaded petrol is 95 octane and so its rating lies between 3-star and 4-star.

MYTH Unleaded petrol pumps are hard to find.

FACT The position is improving rapidly and Esso are leading the way with more unleaded pumps than anyone else. There are already almost 800 petrol stations selling unleaded petrol in the UK of which Esso has over a third. And that number will continue to grow.

MYTH Once your engine is tuned for unleaded petrol, you can't use leaded petrol.

FACT Wrong. With the exception of cars fitted with Catalytic Converters (see below) you can use either leaded or unleaded petrol.

MYTH I will have to buy a Catalytic Converter.

FACT No. At some time yet to be decided by the Government, many new cars will have these fitted to further reduce automotive emissions. But there will be no requirement to fit them on older cars. Cars fitted with Catalytic Converters can only run on unleaded petrol as the catalyst is destroyed by lead.

MYTH Leaded petrol won't be available after 1990.

FACT Yes it will and for many years thereafter. But as time goes on it may be increasingly difficult to find as there will be fewer cars requiring it.

Did you know...

FACT Esso have more unleaded pumps than any other company.

FACT Esso Unleaded has a unique cleaning agent which helps engines run more efficiently, helps fuel economy, and because it cuts down harmful emissions, keeps the air a little cleaner as well.

FACT You can find additional useful information and a list of Esso Service Stations offering unleaded by picking up a leaflet at any Esso Service Station.



Quality at work for Britain.

Kim Dae Jung quits party leadership to unite opposition

From John Gittelsohn, Seoul

Mr Kim Dae Jung relinquished the presidency of his Party for Peace and Democracy yesterday in a bid to forge a united opposition for next month's National Assembly election.

"I have deeply felt guilty," Mr Kim said in a prepared statement, conceding that his continued role as party president was hindering opposition reunification.

Park Young Sook, aged 56, a feminist and dissident, replaced Mr Kim as acting party president.

Many observers believe, however, that Mr Kim will continue to exercise power behind the scenes.

Mr Kim Dae Jung, aged 65, has been pressed to step down since his defeat in December's presidential election when he divided the opposition vote with his rival, Mr Kim Young Sam, to allow a victory by the ruling party candidate, Mr Roh Tae Woo, who is now President.

Opposition politicians fear their divisions will lead to a similar drubbing in the National Assembly elections scheduled for April 26.

Mr Kim Dae Jung's resignation came as other opposition factions neared an agreement to field a unified slate of candidates for the election. The parties have set a new deadline of March 20 to

decide who should run in the nation's 225 electoral districts. The two Kim's won 54 per cent of the votes in the presidential election, and political observers give the opposition a fair chance of gaining a majority in the National Assembly should their merger succeed.

"It will be a battle royal if they do merge," a Western diplomat said, "but they still haven't done it yet."

Mr Kim Dae Jung and his wife went into seclusion yesterday. The resignation had not come easily. He has spent 16 years imprisoned, exiled in the United States and in Japan, and under house arrest before his political rights were restored last July.

Just last week Mr Kim Dae Jung refused to follow the example of Mr Kim Young Sam, who gave up his party presidency in February as a sign of contrition for the opposition's defeat. Many of Mr Kim Dae Jung's strongest supporters complained that he placed his own self-interest about the good of the democratic opposition. His party had suffered several defections in recent weeks.

Mr Kim Dae Jung still retains the loyalty of millions of Koreans, however, especially the people from his native Cholla province. Almost nobody is willing to say

this is the end of his career.

"He will be called back later," said Mr Choi Woon Sang, an adviser to Mr Kim Dae Jung.

● **Murder hunt:** Police launched a murder hunt for 11 striking Hyundai workers in Ulsan yesterday as labour unrest spread to two more subsidiaries of South Korea's most powerful industrial group (AFP reports).

Some 2,000 workers walked out at Hyundai Heavy Industries in the south-eastern industrial city, shutting down production, witnesses said.

Hyundai Motors, South Korea's biggest car-maker, had to cut back production when 3,000 workers staged a sit-in and some later went on strike, workers reached by telephone said.

A shutdown at Hyundai Heavy Industries went into a second day after a walkout by 10,000 ship workers.

More than 4,000 riot police had been deployed in the town.

Hyundai workers are demanding an end to alleged suppression of union rights.

Meanwhile, police said they were looking for a union leader and 10 striking workers in connection with Wednesday's death of a security guard at Hyundai Engines.

Tibetans start hunger strike



Tenzin Khenrab, aged 23, a Tibetan monk, beginning a hunger strike with 14 other Tibetan exiles and an Indian yesterday at a secret location in Delhi. The group, who are fasting to secure the release of compatriots arrested by Chinese authorities in Lhasa during recent pro-independence protests, had earlier been prevented by police from staging their protest outside the United Nations office, so they decided to demonstrate privately (Renter reports). The hunger strikers want a

UN inquiry into protests in Lhasa last October and this month which they say left at least 42 people dead. In Peking yesterday China cautioned against foreign interference in Tibet. The Communist Party newspaper *People's Daily* quoted Mr Yao Yilin, a Deputy Prime Minister, as saying that Tibet had belonged to China for centuries and that Peking's policies there were an internal matter. "Nationalities and religion are China's internal affair," he said.

Japan's envoy sees brighter trade picture

By Michael Dynes

The appointment of a Japanese Ambassador to London is now being watched with keen anticipation by interested parties in both countries, for the eminence or otherwise of the appointee is taken as a signal of Tokyo's attitude to bilateral financial and industrial issues.

Mr Kazuo Chiba, who took up his appointment this week, seems to represent something of a compromise. It is widely interpreted here as a reflection of Tokyo's recognition of Britain's recent economic success, and of its consequent determination to upgrade Anglo-Japanese relations.

Born into an imperial diplomatic family in Tokyo in 1925, Mr Chiba was destined to follow in his father's footsteps. After graduating from the University of Tokyo, he entered the diplomatic service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, holding a variety of foreign posts before being appointed Consul-General at Atlanta in the US in 1974.

After being appointed Consul-General at Berlin in 1976, Director-General of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1978, and Ambassador to Sri Lanka in 1980, Mr Chiba became Japan's Ambassador to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1982.

Mr Chiba has earned a reputation as a tough negotiator, capable of rapidly mastering the minutiae of policy. He is widely respected as a man who demands the highest intellectual standards from his staff.

Although he grew up in Paris, he is a fluent English speaker. Mr Chiba told *The Times*: "My father was a French specialist who told me as a child that the age of the French language was about to be superseded by the age of English. So I was educated at a French school run by an Englishman, where I was brought up on *William the Conqueror*. Mr Chiba said that he, along with many people in Japan, have watched with great interest how Mrs Thatcher has managed to "turn the British economy around" and agreed with the departing speech made by his predecessor, Mr Toshio Yamazaki, that Britain was

again an economic force to be reckoned with.

Mr Chiba welcomed the arrival of the European Community's integrated market as "a great boom for world trade in general".

"Judging by my experience in the US domestic market, it will be very good for Japanese companies investing throughout the EEC," a post of which has gone to Britain," he said. "Naturally, we will have to abide by the rules, and we will have to contribute not only to the development of the British economy but the European economy as well."

Mr Chiba acknowledged that there were a number of trade problems still outstanding which have tarnished relations between Britain and Japan.

The dust may now have settled over last year's bitter dispute between London and Tokyo over whether Cable & Wireless should be given access to the Japanese international telecommunications market, but the memories of how difficult it has been to break into other sectors of the Japanese domestic market — particularly for British exporters of whisky and brandy — are still fresh.

But Mr Chiba was confident that his experience at the GATT would be instrumental in working out solutions.

Mr Chiba's appointment is likely to be greeted warmly by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, who urged Japan to acknowledge the special relationship that existed between Japan and Britain during his visit to Japan in January.



Mr Chiba: Reputation as a tough negotiator.

Bourguiba legacy

Tunisia to try 138 for plotting coup

By Susan MacDonald

The Tunisian authorities have revealed that 138 members of the armed forces and National Guard are to be tried in connection with an alleged coup plot, supposedly uncovered just before the removal from power last November of the former President, Mr Habib Bourguiba.

The discovery of the plot may have precipitated the departure, carried out by the present head of state, President Zine al-Abidine ben Ali.

Those under arrest allegedly form part of fanatical Islamic groups created inside the armed forces and the police by extremist organizations, such as the Islamic Tendency movement, which had been the subject of a crackdown by the former President. They are accused of planning attacks on key installations, including the radio station, and the storming of a prison to release Islamic Tendency movement leaders serving long sentences imposed at last September's trial of Islamic extremists.

The authorities state that those involved will be tried for their crimes and not for their religious convictions, but the Islamic question remains one of the key problems for President Ben Ali. Accusations of torture of prisoners continue

under the new regime. One of the arrested army officers died in detention earlier this year, officially of a heart attack.

Some 2,000 Islamic extremists have been released from prison since November, but not the movements' leaders. The new President finds it difficult to be more lenient with the moderates while hardliners appear to have been involved in plotting.

President Ben Ali is gradually moving towards a more open form of government, but the pressures around him are enormous. At the ruling party's executive meeting last month the name was changed from Destourian Socialist Party to Constitutional Democratic Assembly Party, announcing the start of a new era. A Bill changing the Constitution, including limiting the present lifetime presidency to a simple five-year term, will be presented to Parliament within the next few weeks.

After this it is hoped that genuine elections will be held before the end of next year. However, Tunisia is meeting resistance on this score from its giant neighbours, Algeria and Libya. Both are frightened that demands for democracy could spread across their borders, causing dissatisfaction with one-party systems.

Hong Kong vote ends in protests

Hong Kong (Renter) — A debate on political reform in Hong Kong ended yesterday with hunger strikes, noisy demonstrations and a barrage of demands from liberal legislators calling for democracy.

A motion proposed in the colony's legislature by one of the liberals, Mr Martin Lee, regretting that direct elections would not be introduced in 1988, was defeated by 42 votes to seven, with one abstention.

While a heated debate was going on, 60 students started a 30-hour hunger strike outside, calling on the Government to institute democratic reforms immediately.

Several hundred demonstrators, carrying posters and chanting pro-democracy slogans, burned an effigy of a lame duck, a symbol they said represented Hong Kong's Government.

Mr Lee said a White Paper on reforms published by the Government last month was "totally disappointing".

The policy document proposed that 10 of the 56 seats in the legislature would be returned by direct elections in 1991.

Liberal legislators and pressure groups had pressed strongly for direct elections to be introduced this year.

Mr Lee said he was concerned that the Government might have consulted Peking before making a decision on reforms.

Chinese officials have repeatedly stated that direct elections should not be held before a constitution for the colony is drafted and approved in 1990.

Government legislators said the document represented a first step towards democracy.

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Brian James le
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I'm now 24 months
plump. My mother
was jailed in the
of Nancy on suspicion
a double murderer. The
pers have already made
applications for her release
and this week they submitted a
12th, urging the Home Secretary
to grant a pardon to the woman
who has become a national
French justice.
Charged with dismembering
a faithless lover with a chain-
saw and poisoning her old
husband, Weber was a first-
sent for the scummiest of
French journalists, who have
nothing better than a pro-
crime passionelle. "It's a
nightmare," the 37-year-old
widow became "the Queen of
Nancy," and when a person

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SPECTRUM

Myths made for every man

Does it really matter if Robin Hood robbed from the rich to give to the poor or, indeed, if he ever existed at all?

Brian James looks at the mythology and discovers that, ultimately, the legend is more important than the facts

Legends are lies that we wish to believe: the best of them are no more subject to dismissal by now-revealed truth than they have been made stale by time and retelling. Thus, Robin Hood's heroism, Friar Tuck's girth and Maid Marian's virtue are safe.

Which should reassure the burghers of Nottingham who have been at virulent odds this week with their own promotions department and a local historian over suggestions that not only were Robin and Friar Tuck unknown to each other, but the chaste Maid Marian was not above entertaining the entire band of Merry Men — and any other townsman with a grout-filled purse.

This was always going to be a difficult year for legends to live through. For 1988 is edge-to-edge with anniversaries, including the Armada, the settling of Australia, the Coronation of Victoria, the Landing of William of Orange and the death of Jack the Ripper's first victim. Anniversaries attract problems and prayers. With no clear date on Robin Hood, Nottingham felt themselves out of this particular firing line until the version of a Maid Marian far from the blushing virgin landed like a thudding arrow in the corporate chest. James Holt, holder of the chair in medieval history at Cambridge, author of a 1982 book on which the debunking pamphlet is based, is unabashed by their roar of outrage.

"I am astonished. The pamphlet seems to have taken a sensible and intelligent view of the legend. Indeed, a courageous view. A legend accumulates like a snowball, so to know what it is made of you go back to its very much smaller origins. This is a point that Nottingham's politicians and men of the purse seem to have missed."

Perhaps not. His "men of the purse" would know of a business expansion scheme for a museum of Robin Hoodiana in Nottingham, a project unlikely to be enhanced by an original Maid Marian in the role of "model". Professor Holt: "Any museum must be established to international standards, which are quite strict. One cannot have the story put over as tawdry entertainment... men in green jerkins badly shooting bows."

Did the professor not feel guilty about peering a story that had thrived for centuries: do men not need legends? "Heaven, yes. They have an important impact on people's lives, and contribute a framework for their thinking. There is a danger, therefore, if this is based on fiction or a misapprehension of the past. To examine these legends to prevent

just that, seems to me to be a respectable objective."

Professor Holt gets powerful support from two other men in his case for the importance of legends. Magnus Magnusson has written a scholarly work on his native Icelandic sagas, and produced a television series on British legends as disparate as Robin Hood and Burke and Hare.

Legends, he insists, have an importance far beyond what effect they may have on the number of visitors who choose to take tea in Nottingham next summer. "Their worth lies not in what they tell us of the subject of the tales, but what they tell us of the societies that develop and embroider them."

The legend of Robin Hood, for example, has no certain kernel of truth. Although he is presumed to have lived in the late 12th and early 13th centuries, the first written reference to him is not found until 1261, and then in Berkshire, where his name was used as being synonymous with wrongdoing. The written *Tales of Robin Hood* were very much later. Scholars are prepared to argue that the man who gave the stories a base was either a poacher in Sherwood Forest, or a simple footpad in Barnsdale, 40 miles to the north.

The latter is more likely, according to Magnusson, as Sherwood Forest's trails would have been a ludicrously risky route for travellers and thus provided little in the way of gold-laden pack trains for Hood to drop on to from convenient branches, whereas Barnsdale was astride a busy road northwards and a popular haunt of brigands.

"Yet there was more attraction in the idea of a yeoman, much abused, setting all to rights with a long-bow, and defying royal authority to poach for the pot; add subsequent embroidery, a hero actually well-born, heir to the Earl of Huntingdon, and possessed of the archery skills that were winning foreign wars for England. It is at once a most powerful and flattering self-image for men of the time."

Magnusson lists later alterations in the Robin Hood story to support the thesis of legend as a continually-changing litmus of the times: Maid Marian was added centuries later, undoubtedly a deliberate element drawn from the Virgin Mary, perhaps a Church initiative to clean up the tale.

Here, he might have added, the famous Errol Flynn film version of the 1930s was financed and directed by men, some emigrant Jews, who saw the film as a perfect allegory of the threat of Nazism. "Similarly," he adds, "the 1960s



Bows to a legend: Douglas Fairbanks and Enid Bennett (left) in a 1920s film version, and an earlier engraving (above) of the death of the hero

damentally life's victims need help to cope."

Jasper Griffin, Fellow of Balliol, and author of *The Mirror of Myths*, also stresses the strength of even fictional heroes: "If someone tries to tell you Mickey Mouse is on drugs, does that make you feel worse about Mickey Mouse, or your informant? Or stop you believing what you wish to believe about the Mouse? We need the ornaments of legend in our lives, and we will not dispose of them because someone tells us they have become unfashionable."

"We have no facts, no certain way of telling what Hood was like, so we will continue to remember him in a way that most appeals. The Pope told us that St Christopher never existed: did that make a single believer take his St Christopher medal from his car?"

The creation of legends is a totally mysterious business. "It appears quite random. All legends have in common is a clear and simple philosophy. The Arthurian tales, Robin Hood, the Trojan Horse, the Wild West, they are mostly about simple moral choices. Right and wrong. With a clear-cut victory over oppression and evil. Often in single combat."

"Legends attract poetry and elaboration which they suck into themselves, often in contradiction to obvious fact. St Tristram lived in another age to Arthur, yet legend places him at that Court simply because he was the sort of chap who would have been around."

Jasper Griffin is clear about why legends develop. Because they meet a demand of the human heart. "Arthur was just the king the hard-

pressed people of the land wanted to see back. He was just and he was fearless, and he rode out and dispatched villains, released the damsels, with a single thrust. Whereas in real life villains are so much harder to topple. Like Al Capone, jailed finally for fiddling his income tax. Where is the glory and the legendary swiftness in that?"

"By telling how crooked sheriffs and little fat abbots got what was coming to them, the legends kept alive the hope that there was social justice. They give a glimpse of a simpler, nobler life, and what's more one lived by people just like themselves — except perhaps with a little more courage."

So the purpose that legends serve is to persuade us that it is possible for great men to do heroic deeds while, unlike the heroes of the Church's tales, living lives not that remote from our own?

"Exactly. You might not want to go and live in a tree in Sherwood, nor march into a saloon to end a brawl in Tombstone. But if you wanted to, you could. You were not asked to live the lives of unrelenting misery and pain that seemed to befall the Christian martyrs: it was easier to dream oneself into the band of merry men than, say, the apostles."

The councillors and coffeehouse keepers of Nottingham can cease manning the walls. Their legend is under no siege. We shall continue to tell of an heroic Robin Hood and a virtuous Maid Marian, because these tales have an enduring simplicity, and because we want our children to believe, as we did, in a world where just now and then insolence in office is summarily punished by the powers.

FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

METEOROLOGY

The avalanches that swept down on St Anton last Sunday are the latest evidence of a worrying trend in the Alps. In recent years, torrents of snow or water, mud and rock, have been increasing in frequency. The clearing of trees and bulldozing of new ski-runs has increased the danger, but the growing evidence of mortality and morbidity of trees, linked to air pollution, is more worrying. Changing agricultural practices also play their part. Ski-rich farmers are keeping fewer cows on the upland summer pastures. This leads to longer grass, which, under deep snow, can ferment and provide a lubricating layer, increasing the risk of avalanches. W.J. Burroughs

GEOLOGY

A frog which fell into a tree between 35 and 40 million years ago provides new evidence about the origins of West Indian wildlife. The frog lived on the island of Hispaniola in the Dominican Republic. It was probably placed in the tree cavity by a predator, and subsequently fell into the tree resin, breaking a leg and an arm. But his accident preserved it in amber, and the first full description of it is in a new issue of *Science* (v. 237, p. 1215). Previous theories suggested that Hispaniola was colonized from the mainland of South America in post-Eocene times. The presence of the Upper Eocene frog and some other terrestrial vertebrates now seems to suggest that Hispaniola had a diverse fauna before the break-up of an early Antilles landmass located between the mainland and the Eocene times. Simon Elzy

PUBLIC OPINION

The British public like the idea of a united Europe, but know remarkably little about the EEC, according to a MORI poll conducted for the European Parliament's European Democratic Group. Sixty-four per cent of Britons are for efforts being made to unify Western Europe, while 16 per cent are against. Significant majorities are also in favour of a common system of legal practice, fully integrated armed services to defend Europe, the introduction of a supreme Court of Europe, and a European passport instead of individual passports for each member state. Yet 67 per cent admit to being worried that Britain might lose some of her power to govern herself if Europe becomes more united; and only 35 per cent, indeed, are aware that there are direct elections to the European Parliament. Robert Worcester.

The mystery of the chain-saw madame

It is now 28 months since Mme Simone Weber, a plump, bloodish grandmother, was jailed in the town of Nancy on suspicion of being a double murderer. Her lawyers have already made 11 applications for her release and this week they submitted a 12th, urging the investigating magistrate to end what they claim has become a mockery of French justice.

Charged with dismembering a faithless lover with a chain-saw and poisoning her elderly husband, Weber was a god-send for the seamy school of French journalism, who love nothing better than a gory crime *passionnelle*. Virtually overnight, the 57-year-old widow became "the fiend of Nancy", and when a torso

A faithless lover, a merry widow and a headless torso: the case of the 'fiend of Nancy' is a gift for the French Press

which may or may not be that of her alleged victim was fished out of the Marne river, the lurid Press coverage intensified.

As the months dragged by without the case coming to trial, the fabric of Weber's life has been taken apart with all the loving detail of a Simenon novel of provincial passions and jealousy. Her neighbours and others in Nancy, an unattractive industrial centre in eastern France, are happily supplying readers with the

small print of the evidence. "We are told, for instance, that Weber was infuriated by the endless infidelities of her lover, a handsome fellow called Bernard Hettrier. We have been informed that she hired a chain-saw locally and did not return it, claiming it had been stolen. From an elderly couple downstairs, who evidently kept a close and disapproving eye on her personal life, we learn that a man went up to Weber's apartment on the night Hettrier disappeared and never came down again. They also claim to have spotted Weber leaving some heavy plastic rubbish bags downstairs later on."

Then there is the weird business of the husband, her second, an 80-year-old former army officer named Marcel Fixart. Some newspapers claim they were never married legally, that someone else had posed as the groom for the ceremony: others hint that Fixart's will disinherited his children in favour of Weber was forged.



Denials: Simone Weber

The family, deprived of its legacy, did not let matters drop. Acting on the instructions of the magistrate — whom *Paris Match* magazine quotes as asserting that "a woman who kills her lover must also have murdered her husband" — the remains of Fixart were recently exhumed and sent for pathological tests. Poison is clearly suspected, but could it still be traced after seven years?

And what about that waterlogged torso? Two and a half years later, there is still no firm proof that this is Bernard Hettrier's mortal remains, let alone that a chain-saw was used on it. One expert still maintains the body is that of a male of North African origin.

By all accounts, "la Diabolique" is standing up well to her long imprisonment and her repeated trial by media. For all the circumstantial evidence and the unhelpful holes in her story — what was that chain saw for? — Weber has quietly but unwaveringly denied everything.

This week, she should have been participating in one of the elaborate reconstructions which the French authorities frequently turn to when grappling with a particularly mystifying case. The idea was to spend two weeks going over every inch of the well-trodden ground in Nancy, culminating in dramatic "confrontations" between Weber and her various accusers.

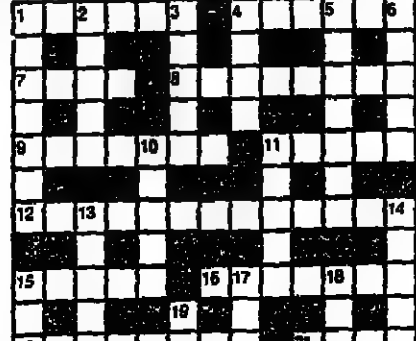
At the last minute, however, the investigating magistrate pulled out to deal with another affair. The result of her latest appeal for release is expected later this month.

Philip Jacobson

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1517

- ACROSS
1 Storm bird (6)
4 Sun aureole (6)
7 Old Testament plumbline hook (4)
8 Two hour ship duty (8)
9 Gossip (7)
11 Drilled (5)
12 "Dirty Harry" star (5,8)
15 "Flaming" flower (5)
16 Outdoors (4,3)
20 Orkneys capital (8)
21 Oil countries body (4)
22 Last (6)
23 Sundry (6)

- DOWN
1 Moulding polymer (7)
2 Schubert Op 114 (5)
3 Long-headed spoon (5)
4 Barred enclosure (4)
5 Toronto province (7)
6 Blackfly, greenfly (5)
8 Rubber tree fluid (5)
11 Swim (5)
13 Badly brought up (3,4)
14 Guides, controls (7)
15 Byd tip ice (5)
17 Heaped (5)
18 Malus pumila (5)
19 Storm (4)



- SOLUTION TO NO 1516
ACROSS: 1 Renown 4 Rocked 9 Barroom 10 Trail 11 Juhu 12 Rescued 14 Mountaineer 18 Washub 19 Rest 22 Adams 24 Rubbish 25 Saying 26 Oxygen
DOWN: 1 Rub 2 Nurse 3 Whodunnit 5 Out 6 Kwazulu should have read Scandinavian buffet, not sandwich 11 Jam 17 Sweets 20 Sting 21 Chin 23 Sun 7 Delude 8 Smorgasbord (the clue) 13 Scentrybox 15 Ossuary 16 Set

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TIMES DIARY LORD ST JOHN OF FAWSLEY

On Wednesday the *Catholic Herald* marked its 100th birthday with a solemn mass presided over by Cardinal Hume. It is quite something for a paper to reach its centenary and especially a religious one. In fact the *Catholic Herald* in England's major contribution to public life has been the creation of a totally independent lay controlled press, an initiative which has saved us (on the whole) from the horrors of an ecclesiastically dominated diocesan press.

The *Catholic Herald*, which was founded in 1888 by an immigrant Irishman, Charles Diamond, has always taken a robustly independent line. Indeed Mr Diamond ended up in gaol in 1918 for a leading article on the troubles in Ireland entitled "Killing No Murder". Its most famous editor was undoubtedly Count Michael de la Bédoyère, who was highly critical of the Soviet Union throughout the war and rightly and resolutely opposed to the allied policy of unconditional surrender. So irritated did Mr Churchill become with the *Herald* and all its works and pomps that only the intervention of his close friend and adviser, Sir Desmond Morton, saved Count Michael from a spell in a cell.

I first appeared in the paper in 1951 when I was standing as the youngest parliamentary candidate against Mr John Parker of Dagenham, then Secretary of the Fabian Society and later Father of the House of Commons. My headline was "Daniel in the Dagenham Den". It was certainly tough going. My only reliable supporters were a local nest of nuns. On a visit to the convent one of them encouraged me with the words: "Faith will move mountains." The Reverend Mother interjected: "It may move mountains, sir, but it will not move Dagenham." I understood then why she was Reverend Mother. And she was right.

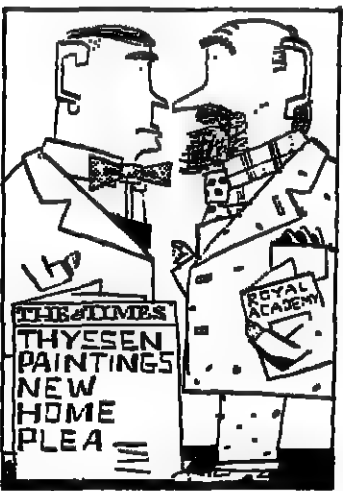
Earlier in the week I was at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, surely (after the monarchy, Parliament and the courts) the greatest of our institutions, for a performance of its star perennial, Zeffirelli's production of *Tosca*. I was present for the first night in 1964 when Maria Callas and Tito Gobbi joined forces to give the classic *Tosca* performance of all time. Madame Callas is the only *diva* I have heard who got the emphasis right in her final sentences for Act II, when she spits at the dying Scarpia: "Muri, muri, dannato!", thus despatching the wicked man to the judgement seat of the All Highest in the midst of his full blown lust.

The current *Tosca* is the vibrant black singer Miss Grace Bumbury, who comes from St Louis, Missouri. Once, after a wheel had trespassed off Concorde, I spent three hours discussing opera and life with Miss Bumbury in the lounge at Kennedy airport in New York.

I remember a heated dialogue over whether *The New York Times* or the real *Times* deposited more newspaper on one's fingers. Miss Bumbury brought the dispute disarmingly to an end with the words: "Anyhow, with my hands being as they are, it wouldn't show anyhow."

Actually, the greatest voice in Covent Garden is not to be found on the stage at all but in front of the bottles in the crush bar. It belongs to Mr Peter Torini, who for many years has served the operamans with charm and efficiency. His debut came just before Christmas at the annual party of the Friends of Covent Garden when he gave a splendid rendering of "This is our Lovely Day" from Vivian Ellis's *Bless the Bride*. This year we are hoping for *Pan's Angelicus* and a reincarnation of Count John McCormack. Mr Torini has asked me to accompany him.

BARRY FANTONI



Another outing, in an enflamed state, has been to Eton to speak to the Political Society presided over by Henry Channon, the son of the Cabinet minister. I always enjoy going to Eton and the last time I spoke there was from the pulpit in the chapel, which looks ancient but is in fact modern.

The Political Society at Eton is flourishing, as befits a school which has far more than its fair share of Prime Ministers, 18 out of the 50 or so since Walpole. I'm afraid that political speakers are notorious last minute "no shows". Once at the Cambridge Union I received a standing ovation on entry which was gratifying but impersonal, as I discovered later. I was the only listed speaker actually to have turned up that term. Eton has no shortage of right-wing speakers but those on the left are more coy: perhaps they think they will be infected or converted.

One Labour Member who has no such inhibitions is Mr Eric Heffer, a great favourite among the boys and who lets them have it, or so they told me, straight from the shoulder. At first this love affair may look surprising, especially as one of Eric's best stories is that the nearest he ever got to a public school was delivering meat as a butcher's boy to the kitchen at Halesbury. Yet Eric is not only a left-wing socialist but a delightful human being and a stratospherically high churchman. What could be more suitable, therefore, than a visit from him to a school dedicated by its pious founder, Henry VI, to the Blessed Virgin.

Sooner or later external government advisers run into opposition from their permanent counterparts, the civil servants. Sir Roy Griffiths, health adviser to the Prime Minister since 1983, is no exception. His reform of NHS management has been heralded as the most significant since 1948. But his latest offering — a trenchant review of community-care policy — has met with concerted opposition in Whitehall.

Publication with a flourish had been intended for the Griffiths Report, but it made a *sotto voce* appearance in the aftermath of the Budget, while its author convalesces from an operation.

Whatever the reasons for its muted emergence, the report cannot easily be shelved. Sir Roy's agenda for action is the most significant statement about community care since the Seebohm Report in 1968. His recommendations may not appeal to the anti-local-government lobby or certain vested interests, but reform is long overdue. To reject Griffiths means the maintenance of the status quo and the waste, confusion and suffering which that implies.

The broad policy objectives of community care are clear

Ken Judge urges that the Griffiths Report be saved from Whitehall

Mixed economy of care

enough. They are to ensure that the right services are provided to the disadvantaged people who need them most, and wherever possible in their own homes. The views of consumers are to be taken more seriously and they are to have greater choice.

But these principles have not been put into practice. Reports by the Audit Commission and the National Audit Office have been unequivocal in their criticism of community care. The four so-called "priority groups" — elderly, mentally handicapped, mentally ill and physically disabled people — are unnecessarily disadvantaged by present arrangements. Services are patchy and poorly co-ordinated, too many resources are still locked up in old long-stay hospitals.

Against this background, Griffiths aims to provide a more coherent framework for policy

development by improving the machinery of government and removing obstacles to value for money. Two of his proposals merit particular attention.

First, central government should take community care more seriously. A minister should be designated to provide policy leadership and direction. This would involve promulgating values and objectives, monitoring local plans and reviewing priorities in the light of changing circumstances. The second critical feature is that "if community care means anything it is that responsibility is placed as near to the individuals and their carers as possible". Local authorities should take the lead role within policy guidelines specified by the appropriate minister and in collaboration with relevant agencies.

A genuine mixed economy of welfare is the goal. This means making a clear distinction be-

tween the quintessentially public tasks of financing, planning and regulating social services, and their production and delivery, which can be much more diverse. It is not immediately obvious that either local or central government is equipped to handle the required changes. The transformation will be uncomfortable for both Whitehall and town halls. But change is essential if the reforms are to stand any chance of success.

At local level, nothing short of a cultural revolution is required to sweep away the traditional reliance on a public sector monopoly of services. New kinds of skills are a prerequisite for the kind of local welfare state that Griffiths has in mind. Social work education does not properly equip existing staff for their new roles. Management development programmes are essential if progress is to be made.

The critical tasks are to assess the needs of disadvantaged people and to ensure that cost-effective and co-ordinated packages of care are provided. The public sector should not necessarily produce services itself. But an emphasis on enabling — rather than providing — will not meet with universal approval and it remains to be seen whether the local authority world will view Griffiths as an opportunity or a threat.

If anything, however, the challenge to central government is even greater. Can Whitehall both provide policy leadership and undertake the major executive task of monitoring and approving detailed local plans for more than 100 local areas? Is the Government prepared to entrust additional responsibilities to local councils?

Anyone with knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the

Civil Service must question its capacity and willingness to administer the kind of planning framework which Griffiths envisages. One possibility, therefore, might be to hive-off much of this work to a community care development agency.

But the major obstacle to an enthusiastic reception for Griffiths is paranoia about local authorities. These fears are now quite out of proportion to the real dangers. Despite their abhorrence at the thought of increasing the responsibilities of such authorities as Brent or Liverpool, ministers may find on reflection that there is no practical alternative.

Whatever the Government decides, the Griffiths Report must not be stillborn. It clearly articulates a vision of a more pluralistic and responsive welfare state, and resolutely tackles the present muddle and confusion which passes for policy. Many of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the community must hope that Sir Roy has the energy and commitment to keep his ideas alive.

The author is director of the King's Fund Institute and was an adviser to Sir Roy Griffiths during the review.

Merlyn Rees

When the talking has to start

One day's barbarism in Northern Ireland may be different in detail from those that preceded it, but the ghastliness of it all is the same. In "the province", in "the six counties", or in "a part of the United Kingdom" — pick your own tribal description — violence is endemic.

It is an unstable area of some 1.5 million people, where the actions of small groups and of individual psychopaths are played out to swing the heart strings of people caught up in the "history" of the past. Violence begets violence. Revenge becomes almost inevitable. Tit for tat murdering becomes the order of the day.

In the face of this, the first duty of any Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is to help dampen down the mood of revenge and retribution. In the past, a murdering period such as the present one has ended, partly from seeming exhaustion, but also from clandestine meetings by the warring paramilitary groups. In one case I recall that the contacts were made in the Maze prison.

The security forces on the streets of Belfast know these leaders who need to be told that the responsibility is theirs: the world also needs to be informed of this vital point. In the short run, mere words and warnings will not stop the cycle of violence. In this context the RUC — for theirs is the prime responsibility — will, by road blocks and other means, prevent the easy movement of arms.

Overall, there is no military solution in Ulster. Police action can only moderate tit-for-tat violence. Non-paramilitary community leaders also have a role. Churchmen and non-churchmen alike are free with their advice to government. Now they should talk to the paramilitaries of all hues who are well known in their areas. Revenge violence comes from these people: community leaders must talk with them and not to the world. The responsibility for the violence lies in Northern Ire-

land, but the Irish Republic has also, particularly through its politicians, a role to play, as it has since long before the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

After the Gibraltar shootings, Adams, the Sinn Féin leader in Belfast, sought assurances from Dublin that there was no Garda involvement in Spain and Gibraltar. Such assurances were given: the South was not involved in tracking down the putative Gibraltar bombers. Charles Haughey should ask Adams to give assurances to Dublin that tit-for-tat action will not come from the Provisional IRA or its related groups.

British politicians are not in a position to do likewise with the Loyalist groups. Any influence that the mainland Conservative Party had over its connection with the Ulster Unionists has dissipated since the ending of Stormont, Sunningdale, and the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Unionist politicians in the province are not connected with paramilitaries, but they must keep on speaking out against violence.

The first aim of all responsible people involved in Irish affairs is to dampen the current mood of revenge. Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State, needs all support on this, for it will be his main concern. There will be problems outside Ireland that are beyond the control of Mr King and certainly the rest of us.

With the memory in mind of the effect of the Attorney-General's decision not to authorize the prosecution of RUC policemen who had been accused in the Stalker/Sampson report of subverting the course of justice, the legal effects of the Gibraltar shootings looms.

Shortly there will be a coroner's inquest in Gibraltar under the rules of 1953. There have been changes in the United Kingdom since then, but the older inquisitorial proceedings will be concerned with "how, when and where the deceased came by his death" and "the persons, if any, to be charged



with murder, manslaughter or infanticide or of being accessories before the fact should the jury find that the deceased came by his death by murder, manslaughter or infanticide."

In other words, the world's press will be reporting on a jury trial. Gibraltar will be in the world's headlines as more detailed information is revealed. Those ministers and others who do not know Northern Ireland

will have to choose their words carefully. The taught nerves of nationalist/republican Ireland will be tested and tit-for-tat murderers will believe they are acting on behalf of their community.

On the security side, now and beyond the period of current violence, there is the worry of the resurgence of the Loyalist paramilitary groups. Does the replacement of the leader of the

Ulster Defence Association mean a move away from "politics" or moderation and towards murder and the UVF, the UFF, or the Red Hand Commandos? What is certain is that they have all received new and lavish supplies of sophisticated arms (via the south?).

One response the Government ought to make is to try to bring the Unionist politicians to open contact with ministers. Rumour

has it that Mr Haughey has made such contact. Without giving in, or conceding a major principle, surely something can be done to bring elected Unionists to the political table. Unless the Unionist politicians have a role, then the Loyalist paramilitaries will take over.

The resurgence of paramilitary action should also show nationalists and republicans opinion that the Loyalist/Unionist politicians have a role, and that they have to be taken into account. Belfast is more important than London.

Southern politicians quite understandably are often irritated by the constant concern "Brits" have with security and not politics. But in my view the security situation in Northern Ireland is deteriorating despite the work of a very much improved RUC. And it could all overspill into the south.

Through the Anglo-Irish Agreement or perhaps despite it, ministers north and south ought to be discussing security for the short and longer run. It is a far deeper discussion than cross-border co-operation. There is no easy political solution and there never will be: glib proposals or exaggerated claims for the Anglo-Irish Agreement, for example, only serve the political ego and add to the political instability of the north.

The Sunningdale Agreement in 1973 sounded fine in stockbroker England, but it broke the old Unionist Party and provoked the Ulster workers' strike. Political discussion must take place between north and south, but nothing grandiose, please.

What matters now, in the aftermath of the cemetery massacre, is to see that its effects are limited. It is in Northern Ireland that violence is endemic: politicians speaking from the safety of London or Dublin should not forget it.

The author, Labour MP for Morley and Leeds South, was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland from 1974 to 1976.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Workers who won't

Nigel Lawson isn't renowned for his finely developed sense of social justice. Nor does he exhibit a soft spot for the poor and underprivileged. He probably believes most of them to be workshy, good for nothing. If only they attempted to help themselves, he probably reasons, instead of wallowing in idleness, they could all enlist in his enterprising and successful economy.

This patronizing view of what is now called the underclass is partly responsible for the contempt which he and the Government constantly display towards the unemployed and low-paid. But it is only partly the cause. To be fair to him and to the DHSS ministers currently recasting the social security system, the behaviour of some claimants has fuelled the Tory odium.

There is now a firmly established welfare culture among sizeable sections of the community. It permeates all social classes and is evident in all age groups. It is particularly noticeable in the North, where a generation has grown up dependent on state benefits. Its members' entire income and everything they possess has been given to them. They're Mrs Thatcher's children, many of them. They're her creation, or at least it has been during her premiership that they have left school, come to maturity, got married and had children, and all the while on the dole. They know no other life, no other values. They weren't born with a hand-out, welfareist, mentality. They acquired it through necessity, experience and example.

This new way of life has developed its own norms, expectations and mores. It is not, for example, a cause of shame, as it used to be just 10 years ago, to

be unemployed and unable to keep one's family. That may have been an unreasonable response. There shouldn't, after all, be any compulsion to involuntary unemployment. But that attitude is preferable to the arrogant justification so many offer today for actually choosing to be unemployed. Thus many young people can be heard loudly insisting that they will not take jobs that are boring, repetitive, dirty or involve unsocial hours. The 16-18-year-olds refusing to go on YTS are but one obvious example of this trend.

No one denies them the right not to work — though we can have views on the morality of the choice. It is their decision. But then they must live with its consequences. One of them is that they should receive no help from those who are neither too fickle nor irresponsible nor lazy to take the dirty, boring and repetitive jobs. Yet they expect — demand — to be handed state benefits, and at good rates.

It's not just the young unemployed who assert the right to be kept by their working compatriots. So also do many of the new generation of one-parent families who vocally insist on their right for a council house, to have its rent paid and for their total income and the entire contents of the house be provided courtesy of the Giro cheque. Their demands are couched in terms that suggest that the working population has a moral obligation towards them rather than that they should be responsible for their own lives.

Yes, of course, a civilized society must look after those who cannot help themselves. But it has no duty to those who won't. I have certainly never read in any bible nor heard in

any sermon that the hard-working members of the community have to tend to the needs of the lazy and feckless. It's definitely not part of any socialist ethic. Quite the opposite. Socialism, as befits such a noble ideal, demands of its citizens that they contribute to society according to their abilities not take from it according to their whims.

Yet the irony of all this is that the rest of us are being made to feel guilty for not keeping these individuals in the manner which they have learnt to demand. Even the otherwise prudent and respectable elderly have been infected by the welfareist disease. You see it in the lamentations of those who have saved for their old age only to learn that benefits will not be paid to those with savings in excess of £6,000. Instead of complaining, shouldn't they be proud that they do not have to depend on the state, that they have instead a dignified independence?

It's this grasping attitude and abuse, exhibited as well by a middle-class student receiving the dole during their vacation, that has led to the restrictions on the payment of social security. The blame must be laid at the feet of the greedy as well as attributed to the insensitivity of Nigel Lawson.

My columns of December 26, 1987, I wrote of General Sir John Hackett, former C in C of the Army of the Rhine, being astonished on Kilroy! when an ex-soldier said: "Don't tell me to shut up, general. I'm not in the Army now." My memory was not precisely accurate. What the ex-soldier actually said in response to Sir John's "Just let me speak for a moment and don't stop me" was: "Don't tell me that. I'm a civilian now."

SCIENCE REPORT

Death in the sun

Washington

The theory that the dinosaurs and many other species became extinct as a consequence of the impact of a comet on the Earth has been further elaborated at a conference on lunar and planetary science at Houston yesterday.

John D. O'Keefe and Thomas J. Ahrens of the California Institute of Technology acknowledged that the short-term effect of a comet striking the Earth would be to throw up dust that would block out the Sun, causing surface temperatures to fall. But they say a longer-term effect would be to raise the Earth's temperature by as much as 20C, killing off many plant and animal species.

The collision hypothesis for the extinction of the dinosaurs and other species was first proposed in 1980 by the Nobel laureate, Luis Alvarez. Crucial among the supporting evidence was the puzzling abundance of the rare element iridium in rocks from 65 million years ago. Iridium is more abundant in meteorites and other interplanetary flotsam than in the rocks of the Earth.

The impact of a comet would have created a dust cloud, shutting out the Sun's rays and suppressing photosynthesis, without which plants die. The fossils record shows that many plant species did indeed die out around that time. But the dust would stay in the atmosphere for only a few years, not long enough to cause the widespread extinction now recognized.

O'Keefe and Ahrens, who



accept the collision hypothesis, argued at Houston that an impact on carbonate-rich rock would have released huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. They estimate that an asteroid 15 miles in diameter would have released enough carbon dioxide to double the normal atmospheric content.

Because carbon dioxide is one of the so-called greenhouse gases, holding back heat normally radiated into space, the surface temperature of the Earth would soon increase. O'Keefe and Ahrens say that a 15-mile-diameter asteroid colliding with carbonate-rich rock would pump enough carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to increase the temperature by about 5C in just 10 days. One five times as large would bring a 100-fold increase and raise global temperatures by 20C. In each case, the increased tem-

perature could persist for 10,000 years.

O'Keefe and Ahrens base their argument in part on experiments in the basement of the Caltech geophysics laboratory, where two naval gun-barrels are welded together into a 60ft tube. This device is used to fire projectiles at various types of rock to see which gases are given off.

A related theory appeared in *Nature* last week, where Michael Rampino and Tyler Volk of New York University argued that an asteroid impact would cause widespread death of certain marine plankton which normally produce the chemical dimethyl sulphide, believed to be necessary for cloud formation over the oceans.

With fewer clouds, more sunlight would reach the Earth's surface, producing a worldwide increase of temperature of up to 6C, according to Rampino and Volk. And that disruption of life among the lowest organisms would have been enough to spell the end of the larger terrestrial animals, notably the dinosaurs.

The idea that an increase of the Earth's surface temperature might have been the proximate cause of the mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous Period 65 million years ago is an interesting throwback to older theories. Classical geologists have long remarked on increased temperatures spanning the transition to the Tertiary Period that followed.

JOSEPH PALCA

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THE STURDY POUND

The decision to reduce interest rates by half a percentage point to control the rise in the exchange rate confirms that the Government's exchange rate policy is alive and well. As the pound is now the only solid anchor for monetary policy, this is reassuring.

In the fortnight since the pound was "uncapped", there has been unnecessary doubt about what government policy was. The greater the degree of discretion in policy, the heavier the responsibility on the Government to explain what it is doing and avoid any misunderstanding. Instead, the Chancellor and the Prime Minister appeared at odds on fundamental issues.

The argument now appears to have been resolved by yesterday's cut in rates. The Chancellor has enjoined the markets to watch what the authorities do rather than what they say. Since the Budget, the Bank of England has intervened to restrain the pound as it approached DM3.10 and then yesterday cut its dealing rate when the rate threatened to climb still higher. On the evidence of the last couple of days we must conclude that the top of the band within which the Chancellor wants to keep the pound has been raised from DM3 to around DM3.10.

The rise in the exchange rate band has effectively tightened monetary policy, enabling the Prime Minister to claim in the Commons with some justification that the move was consistent with the concern he expressed last week about inflation. A 3 per cent rise in the pound will help curb consumer spending a little and should cut the inflation rate within the next 12 months. It will also send a strong signal to employers to limit pay increases. In addition, the renewed attempt to control the exchange rate reaffirms the importance of the pound as a monetary indicator in the Government's scheme of things.

THE SHADOW OF THE CONTRAS

The shadow of Central America looks set to fall across the last year of President Reagan's presidency in much the same way as the shadow of Iran darkened President Carter's last months. The announcement that Admiral Poindexter, Colonel North and others involved in the arms-for-Iran affair had been indicted by a grand jury on charges of fraud and conspiracy, was followed within hours by confirmation that President Reagan had ordered the dispatch of more than 3,000 US troops to Honduras. The two developments will combine to dictate an agenda for the presidential election campaign which neither Republicans nor Democrats will necessarily welcome.

According to available information, the United States has supplied troops, at the request of Honduras, to provide training and support for the Honduran armed forces. Honduras will thus be enabled to concentrate its own forces on repelling incursions from the Nicaraguan Sandinista forces. The incursions and the need for support, however, can be seen in part as a consequence of recent US policies.

The Congress vote last month to suspend aid to the Contras, coupled with the provisions of President Arian's Central American peace plan — now supported in principle by the United States — has encouraged the Contras to move themselves and their supplies back into Nicaragua. Those same factors, however, have encouraged the Sandinistas to exploit the Contras' weakness.

So long as US troops are in Honduras, the question of whether they should be there will be the subject of political debate. Partly it will be conducted in terms of the rights and wrongs of involvement in a regional conflict abroad. Although fading gradually, memories of the Vietnam war are still vivid enough to arouse fear on the political left. At the same time, the cause of combating communism can still bring in additional votes from the right, despite the presentational success of Mr Gorbachov's diplomacy.

The charges now laid against the prime players in the arms-for-Iran affair will only sharpen the debate. Just as President Reagan appeared to have laid the ghost of ultimate

responsibility for the diversion of money from Iran to the Contras without the knowledge or approval of Congress, it has returned to haunt him. This time, however, it will haunt not only him, but the man who would succeed him — his Vice-President, Mr George Bush.

If President Reagan's former National Security Adviser and his assistant stand trial, the questions that the Vice-President has so far parried will start to be posed with more urgency. How much did he know about the scheme to by-pass Congress, and if he knew nothing — was he doing his job properly?

With sweeping victories in the primary elections behind him, Mr Bush looks assured of the Republican nomination for President. So far, he has capitalized both on his experience of high political office and on his loyalty to President Reagan. By November, however, his candidacy — and the ease with which he won it — may seem a liability. The arms-for-Iran affair is one of the few things that could frustrate Republican hopes of retaining the presidency.

Some may feel that allowing Colonel North in particular to stand trial would be a trump card for the Republicans. Previous attempts to discredit him — before and during the Congressional hearings — succeeded only in establishing him as a model American patriot and upholder of the family, whose only crime was to do his duty. If he can convince a jury — and his powers of persuasion are formidable — that he derived no personal advantage from the arrangements made to transfer Iranian money to Nicaraguan Contras, his testimony could be a valuable political asset.

It would be better for all concerned if the trial — if there is to be one — were short so far as possible of political significance; this means that it should be held after the November election. An alternative would be for President Reagan to exercise his prerogative of pardon, but this would allow Democrats to talk of a cover-up. The time for a pardon, if at all, is after November. By this time, the new President will have been elected and President Reagan can argue that his successor deserves to start with a clean slate. If that successor is Mr Bush, however, a few marks will still remain.

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A NEW ISLAMIC REPUBLIC?

President Ershad's struggle to gain popular support for the power he seized six years ago this month has taken a dramatic, if desperate, turn. His original strategy was to secure a mandate through controlled elections, but the most recent of such elections — on March 3 — failed to give him the credibility he sought. The opposition boycotted the polls and the turnout was low.

Now, the President has announced his intention of amending the Bangladeshi Constitution to make it an Islamic state conforming to Sharia law. Although there are no details of how this will be done and what it will mean, people will probably welcome it. More than 80 per cent of Bangladeshis are Muslim, most of them Sunni. They are close to their religion, and Islam has never recognized the separation of religion and state which is common in Western democracies. Whether this appeal to people's Islamic identity will bring President Ershad the credibility he has failed to win — either through personal authority or through elections, however, must be doubtful.

He may have looked for a model to General Zia in Pakistan. By presenting himself as a simple man of the faith, the General secured the support of some of the religious parties and obtained a partial mandate to continue as President. As a result, the Pakistan opposition has had to steer a difficult course between opposing the President and respecting Islam. That, by itself, has helped to keep General Zia in power for almost 11 years.

Bangladesh, however, is not Pakistan, and President Ershad's scheme goes against the grain of his country's history and character. Pakistan (which at the time included Bangladesh as its eastern province) was created as a

separate state for Muslims in the subcontinent. Islam was its *raison d'être*, so that when General Zia established his Islamic state he was doing little more than giving formal constitutional expression to the popular ideal.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, broke with Pakistan because Islam was not sufficient to maintain the tenuous links between the two halves of a geographically divided country. For Bangladeshis, Bengali identity has historically taken precedence over religion. The civil war of 1971 was fought over this issue — which is why, after independence, the country adopted a secular constitution and why religion has never been a serious political issue.

Religion is widely recognized as a personal matter in Bangladesh. Fanaticism is absent and fundamentalism very limited. Because Islam was never threatened, it never created the ideological constituency which might now grasp the Ershad offer. Moreover, the cultural identity of Bangladesh is intertwined with Bengali art, music and poetry. These guide Bangladeshis towards their Bengali Hindu brethren in India, with whom they share the inheritance of Tagore and Ray. For them, Calcutta is as important as Mecca.

President Ershad's plan is likely to have as mixed a reception abroad as at home. Bangladesh's largest neighbour, India, will probably be dismayed at the emergence of a new Islamic neighbour, while some Arab countries may be encouraged to offer much-needed economic aid. What President Ershad's plan will not bring, however, is the one thing he most desires: the popular mandate that would make his rule legitimate. The most he can probably hope for is to win some respite in his struggle to survive.

'Glasnost' as a two-way process

From the Editor-in-Chief of Soviet Weekly
Sir, Lately the Russian bear seems to have been getting quite a few mentions from certain politicians and the media in Britain. Allow me to use the image once again, and recall the Russian saying: "A bear fell on the man's ear".

We use this figure of speech in reference to people who are tone-deaf, unable to reproduce even the simplest melody or distinguish between a false and a true note. It seems strange that such people should want to become music critics — the thought occurred to me as I was reading Bernard Levin's article, "Inside the pussy cat's parlour" (March 14).

Mr Levin seems to be totally unable to reconcile himself to the fact that other people — in this case a group of British schoolchildren whose ears have not been spoiled by the propagandist cacophony of the cold war and the recent pre-perestroika period — see, hear and perceive what is happening in the Soviet Union in a different way from himself.

As he sat down to write his article, Mr Levin apparently recalled the old biblical saying that "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings comes forth truth". So from the heights of his "adult wisdom" he decided to utter another long anti-Soviet imprecation.

Frankly, I cannot imagine any Soviet publication — after the schoolchildren from Vladimir have been to see their friends in Kent — saying anything like this: "All right, youngsters, you were warmly received in Britain, but don't you forget they have three million unemployed there, that their homeless have to sleep under bridges, and that their special service agents shoot at people a long way from Britain if they suspect them of being terrorists".

Mr Levin seems not to like the fact that some young people of both countries have done what even adults often cannot do. They cast off stereotypes and prejudices, which to me explains why your correspondent has dared accuse the Soviet people of "false kindness". I shall not attempt to refute this accusation, since I am sure that nobody will give it credence.

As for the prejudices that keep Mr Levin's mind in bondage, I think it would be in place here to quote William Hazlitt, my favourite English essayist. Many years ago he wrote: "Prejudice, in its ordinary and literal sense, is prejudging any question without having sufficiently examined it, and adhering to one opinion upon it through ignorance, malice, or perversity, in spite of every evidence to the contrary" (*On Prejudice*).

I do not think this formulation could be bettered.
Yours sincerely,
VICTOR ORLIK,
Editor-in-Chief,
Soviet Weekly,
3 Rosary Gardens, SW7,
March 16.

From the Headmaster of Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Canterbury
Sir, As one of the headteachers accompanying the recent visit to School No 23 in Vladimir, I should like to respond to Mr Levin's dismissal of our young people's reception and experiences of the Simon Langton Grammar School for Girls.

This exchange — the first of its kind from this country — is a

"joint" initiative between this school and the Simon Langton Grammar School for Girls. In addition to the Girls' School's long involvement in active international links, the exchange relied heavily on the Boys' School's specific expertise in the teaching of Russian, regular visits to the USSR, teacher exchange and links with Moscow schools.

Our young people are not as naive as Mr Levin's article appears to imply; they share concern at the heart-rending situation of many individuals, including Vasil Shipilov. In all our schools there is evidence of passionate concern for personal freedom, for justice and suffering. This is expressed not only in support for individuals and causes for famine relief, but also in terms of personal service at home and overseas.

Our visit was arranged with unprecedented helpfulness by Russian officials at embassy, government and school level; the warmth and spontaneity of the Russian pupils and families in very cramped accommodation could not have been greater — or, more to the point, simulated. There was also a mature sense of humour, the expression "trust but verify" being relished in a very English way.

In our conversations with all manner of people, including representatives of local and regional government, we met with readiness, indeed courage, to discuss openly the implications and potential of "openness" and "restructuring" — mixed with a real anxiety at being in uncharted water.

It would seem a grave dereliction to dismiss, even in the avuncular tone adopted by Mr Levin, the genuine warmth and mutual liking of 40 pupils and sets of families, or in any way to discourage the many other schools who are attempting to follow our lead.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARRIS, Headmaster,
Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys,
Nackington Road,
Canterbury, Kent,
March 14.

From the Rev Dr Richard Rodgers
Sir, I am the "daff bugger" to whom Bernard Levin (affectionately) alludes. I am the English priest who is keeping a bread and water vigil on the porch of St Martin-in-the-Fields in a "cell" for the 46 days of Lent for a Russian priest, Vasil Shipilov, who had been in detention of one sort or another for 47 years.

I welcome Mr Levin's article warmly. Many people have telephoned me in my cell on the number which he gave. All but one or two have been very encouraging.

I would, however, like to convey to readers that I eschew any desire to be anti-Soviet or right-wing. From what I can see of Mr Gorbachov's new way of working, I highly applaud him. He is bringing fresh air into Soviet life and needs a great deal of wisdom in the coming weeks for which we should pray.

Yours,
DICK RODGERS,
The "Cell", The North Porch,
St Martin-in-the-Fields,
Trafalgar Square, WC2,
March 15.

Battle of Jutland

From Mr J. H. Stout
Sir, It was not Admiral Beatty's duty at the Battle of Jutland "to avoid losing the war while winning the battle" (leading article, March 16).

Churchill's comment — which was probably what your leader writer had in mind — referred to "the only man on either side who could lose the war in an afternoon." But he was speaking of Admiral Jellicoe, not Beatty.

An ignorance of an illustrious maritime heritage is not permissible, Sir, just because you are writing in an euphoric state about an inelegant Budget that is not consonant with the wishes of the people.

Yours faithfully,
I. H. STOUT,
15 Abbots Park Road, E10,
March 16.

Lateral thinking

From Mr Graham Chainey
Sir, In round 17 (March 12) of your "Tournament of the Mind", supposedly a test of intelligence, you refer to a bath, one tap of which takes 1 hour 40 minutes to fill it, the other tap 3 hours 32 minutes, and which, with the taps turned off, takes 2 hours 23 minutes to drain. You require us to calculate "to the nearest second" the bath's total filling time with both taps on but with the plug out.

Does one earn bonus marks for suggesting that the owner of this bath instead summon a plumber? Yours to the nearest IQ factor,
GRAHAM CHAINEY,
48 St Barnabas Road,
Cambridge.

From Mr Michael B. Fletcher
Sir, If the Mema people are tired of filling that bath (and I have to say that their plumbing seems to need attention) they might like to consider the following genuine problem which happened this morning.

In the kitchen are two electric clocks, one conventional dial and one digital. If (when) there is a

Plight of women on jobs market

From Lady Plowden

Sir, The statement from the CBI director of employment affairs (quoted in *The Times*, March 12) is most welcome — "It makes sense for businesses to offer highly-skilled women the chance of returning to their job after pregnancy".

But what of the women who, in their early adult years, may have worked at average jobs but whose embryonic skills were then devoted to caring for their children in their early years; or, indeed, those young women who never work but marry early, and the many single parents.

The recent document issued by the Department of Employment, *Training for Employment*, refers to women as if they had special defects — they are among those for whom the Government proposes to make special provision, together with "unemployed people with disabilities, ex-servicemen and ex-offenders".

For the majority of women with younger children this new, major programme is not applicable for it relates only to those who have been unemployed for periods first of six months, and later for longer. To be registered as unemployed a person has to be available for work. Women with younger children, unless they can make arrangements for the care of their children, cannot be available for work. They will find it hard to pay

for the care of their children until they find work.

If a woman can get herself on to the programme she can then qualify for up to £50 each week to pay for this care. It is a chicken-and-egg situation. She cannot register as unemployed; therefore she cannot earn enough to pay for the care of her children or make the contribution to the economy which trained women are as able to make as trained men.

Nevertheless, in September, I believe, this new, much-publicised total scheme of training will start. Most women with younger children still continue to be disadvantaged compared to men and denied the training which would enable them, in their average longer life, to make their proper contribution to the economy and to find their own satisfaction in so doing?

Yours faithfully,
BRIDGET PLOWDEN,
(Chairman, Area Managing Board, London North, Manpower Services Commission),
11 Abington Gardens,
40 Abington Villas, W8,
March 14.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 18 1904

The Duke of Cambridge (1819-1904), Commander-in-Chief of the Army for nearly 40 years, was widely acknowledged to be opposed to change in the Service. It was something the leader writer could not ignore in an otherwise sympathetic tribute to a cousin of Queen Victoria.

[DEATH OF A ROYAL DUKE]

The death of the DUKE of CAMBRIDGE, which it is our melancholy duty to record today, will arouse throughout the country a feeling of deep and genuine regret. It will no less call forth warm sympathy with the KING and the Royal Family, whose sympathy with the sorrows of the nation is always spontaneous and sincere. To these feelings expression was given yesterday in both House of Parliament on behalf of both Houses in the States while the LORD MAYOR added the tribute of the City of London, with which the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE was long connected by peculiar ties, and in which his personal qualities made him universally popular. To the great majority of those now living he was an institution. Their memory does not extend to a time in which he was not a conspicuous personality in our public life. For all such his death is the removal of a familiar landmark; it makes a gap in their mental picture of their time and in the general scheme of their associations, and it sounds a graver chord of personal emotion than a more intimate personal knowledge less deeply rooted in their experience.

For nearly forty years the DUKE of CAMBRIDGE was Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, the embodiment of military authority to generations of soldiers, and the most conspicuous representative of the Army in the eyes of the nation. That great office, filled by him in a manner which commanded unbounded popularity in the Army, alone sufficed to give him a very prominent place in the national life of his time. But he was much more than a soldier, and he established claims upon the sympathy and regard of the country by the unflinching and the remarkable success with which he promoted social and philanthropic movements far removed from the military sphere. With the sure instinct which belongs to the Royal Family he avoided everything of a partial or sectarian character, but in the numerous movements in which no distinctions of class or party are recognized he was always a willing and most effective helper. When money was needed for any purpose of general benevolence no one was in greater request than the DUKE of CAMBRIDGE, nor could any one more persuasively advocate its claims. His success was no doubt due in part to his exalted rank and distinguished position; but it was also due to an even greater extent to the simplicity and sobriety of his character, to the felicity with which he said the right thing in the right way, and to his possession of the natural art without which all oratory is cold and ineffective — the art of getting upon good terms with his audience.

It was perhaps the misfortune of the DUKE of CAMBRIDGE that he was at the head of an unprogressive army, an army exceedingly conservative in its ideas, and wanting in the experience of actual war which would have stimulated it to efforts to understand and keep abreast of modern developments. Had the Army been permeated by a different spirit, he would have reflected that spirit just as faithfully as the one he actually found. But he lacked the imagination needed to make an active reformer. To him the thing that existed was a part of the order of nature, and he was incapable of conceiving how any new thing could work at all.

Crossed lines

From Mr John Vernon
Sir, I hope I can offer a solution to the poor people who suffer the intrusion of a confused fax machine constantly phoning their homes (letter, March 15). Borrow another fax machine!

Set it up at home. Wait for the offending call, and watch with glee as revealing, in due course, at the top of the transmitted document, the telephone number of the source.

Then, take pen to paper and via your borrowed fax, send a message back! That should stop it.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN VERNON,
49 Elmleigh Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
March 15.

From Mr P. M. A. Smeeth
Sir, The Gibberds could invest in an answerphone and set it so that the bell stops after two rings. They could then sleep on peacefully, knowing the beast has something to ping in to.
Yours sincerely,
P. M. A. SMEETH,
2 Twickenham,
Cobham, Surrey,
March 15.

power cut they both stop, but on re-connection the digital one resets to 00.00. At midnight they were both correct. When I came down to the kitchen this morning at 8 o'clock, the digital clock showed 05.00 and the conventional one 6 o'clock. When, and for how long, was the interruption of supply that I should report to the Electricity Board?

The student may ignore the fact that the house was cold and there was no hot water.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FLETCHER,
Saillards,
Underhill Lane,
Ditchling, Hassocks,
West Sussex,
March 14.

From Prebendary Hayes Treen
Sir, Only a fool will try to fill a bath with the plug out!

It is good to be reminded by "Tournament of the Mind", round 17, that intelligence is no substitute for wisdom.

Yours faithfully,
HAYES TREEN,
13 The Lea,
Bishops Cleeve,
Taunton, Somerset.

THE ARTS

Swiss' roles' nasty taste

TELEVISION

People's ability to think of animals as human is matched only by their capacity to treat humans as animals. In *Cabeat at the Jangleurs* (BBC2), a stand-up comedian, Jez Friz, read out a witty, bitter-sweet diary of Alf, a rat in a scientific laboratory: "One of Nick's heads fell off in the night... I don't much like wearing make-up."

Children of the Open Road, Ruth Jackson's film for 40 Minutes (BBC2), did not make light of the disturbing story of Swiss Jewish gypsies who were treated like animals in a pernicious experiment by the country's leading children's charity, which tried for 50 years to get rid of the gypsy "problem" by forcibly taking children from their parents and giving them to foster homes and institutions.

The figure behind this programme was a sinister racist who found many Swiss families willing to take part in his experiment by taking in children as cheap labour — they were distinguished from other village children by having their heads shaved.

"I can understand now when gypsies from Germany describe how they were torn from each other by the Nazis because we suffered the same treatment," said one gypsy, Theresa Grossman, who had five of her children taken from her. Such stories seemed more shocking because Switzerland, despite its less than charitable attitude towards the rights of women and foreign workers, still has an image of picturesque, if socially tedious, snow-white respectability.

The cleanliness seemed to extend to the homes of the gypsies, which looked in better order than those of many British pillars of society. But one image was certainly lived up to when the head of one clinic, where a five-year-old gypsy girl had been given electric shock treatment, appeared looking like a parody of a B-movie evil doctor.

But appearances can be misleading. Performing at the Jangleurs was that extraordinary mouth-trumpeting singer and guitar player, Earl Olden. He stubbornly cultivates the look and demeanour of a tedious bespectacled accountant, but makes his cheek blow sounds like the horn of a surly cool jazz great.

Andrew Hislop

Robert Dawson Scott salutes 25 years of the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, and looks at its prospects

Moving right along

There aren't many small scale theatrical enterprises which last as long as 25 years without merging, splitting, becoming something else or just running out of steam. So, for survival alone, one might raise a raised cheer for Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre this year, on its Silver Jubilee.

Financially always precarious, artistically erratic, housed in first one and then another completely unsuitable building, based in a city which has for the most part viewed its very existence as something of an embarrassment, lumbered with a cumbersome club structure which became redundant as soon as the Lord Chamberlain was abolished, the Traverse's annual escape from foundering has, since its earlier days, been worthy of Houdini.

Always, somehow, there seemed to have been just enough people to fight just hard enough for it to continue, though even at its peak its membership never got above 4,000. Always, somehow, there was just enough major artistic success to maintain its credibility, whether it was home-grown, as with Tom McGrath's *The Hard Man*, or imported, as with the British premiere of Jerry's *Ubu Roi*.

It owes a lot to the Edinburgh Festival, which brought theatre people from all over the world to its doorstep. But then, the Edinburgh Festival owes Traverse a good deal, too, for providing just the seasoning of excitement and novelty that the Festival needed.

In an orgy of understandable self-congratulation this year, the theatre is all but claiming to have invented fringe theatre singlehandedly. While the nationwide growth of tiny companies, doing extraordinary new work on no money would probably have happened anyway, there's no doubt that the constant stream of innovation from Traverse helped create and then maintain the Festival Fringe's reputation, much to the discomfort of some early Festival directors.

In the last few years it really did seem to be running out of steam once



Left to right, above: Jenny Killick, artistic director, Sheena McDonald, chairman and Anne Bonnar, general manager

and for all, producing only four shows of its own a year, down to only 38 per cent audiences in 1983-4 (when their capacity is only 100, that's pretty serious) and warned by the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) that unless something dramatic, in every sense, happened their annual grant of £214,000, already not being increased in line with inflation, could be relied upon no further.

True, there were still hits: John Clifford's *Losers* and Mario Vargas Llosa's *Kathie and the Hippopotamus*, for example. But voices were being raised in Scotland about how isolationist and irrelevant the Traverse was becoming, about how Jenny Killick, the 27-year-old artistic director, was too young and relied too much on a coterie of friends from Cambridge University.

The room to manoeuvre, between poor audiences on the one hand and diminishing funding on the other, was dwindling fast.

One writes off the Traverse at one's peril, however. The theatre has often

had strong management or intelligent artistic leadership in the past, but rarely both at the same time. The arrival of the resourceful Anne Bonnar as general manager in 1986, to join Killick, sorted that out.

The appointment of another charismatic and determined woman, Sheena McDonald, as chairman followed last year. Between them they have produced a bigger shake up for the coming year than one could reasonably have hoped for.

There are to be 11 plays produced instead of four (all new, in the Traverse's best tradition and no reshaping of their Greatest Hits). The programme deliberately embraces some of the best talents in the increasingly confident Scottish theatre.

And the Traverse's status as a members' club is to go. Anne Bonnar is convinced that misunderstandings over membership requirements have kept audiences away, but it took hard bargaining with the local authority before a public licence was granted.

The Traverse's new public status

will also have a symbolic value in Edinburgh, bringing the theatre back into the public domain and out of the neglected artsy corner in which it has been perceived as languishing.

Unashamed milking of the jubilee for sponsorship and a windfall from audience revenue last year — back up to 59 per cent — has provided the money for the extra productions. They include another play, *The Conquest of the South Pole*, from the East German playwright Manfred (Man to Man) Karge, secured in the face of intense competition from the Royal Court, among others.

What will please the Scottish theatre mafia — believe me, there is one — is the inclusion of Gerry Mulgrew, who leads the Communicado Company, as director of two plays from the Caidheastach, and of five others from identifiably Scottish writers.

It remains to be seen whether these plays are any good, of course, and given the usually short tenure of Traverse directors, whether Killick will stay on beyond the end of this season to build on this new beginning.

THEATRE

The Miracle Worker Westminster Theatre

The advantages of private education, reduced to a sick joke in Len's *The Tutor* at the Old Vic, are now presented in a positive light in William Gibson's famous account of the Helen Keller-Annie Sullivan relationship.

Like Len's hero, Gibson's Annie is a figure of threadbare gentility, who finds a place in a well-to-do household where she can be sure of her creature comforts, provided she accepts her menial status and devotes all her waking hours to looking after an appallingly difficult child.

The difference is that Annie has got something she wants

to teach. After an orphaned childhood and an experience of blindness, she takes the job for the money and then discovers her life's vocation in passing on the gift of language to the deaf and blind Helen.

It is the family's love for Helen, whom they treat as a maimed pet to be endlessly indulged, that denies her the chance of learning anything. It still creates a moral shock to see Annie taking charge of this pliantly disabled little girl and treating her as a spoiled brat.

It is by no means simply a two-character sequel to Gibson's *Two For the See-Saw*. Much of its impact comes from scenes round the dinner table, with the patriotically aggrieved father leading the conversation on Confederate transgression while Helen wanders round filching food from every plate. And when Annie succeeds in imposing her regime, and removing the child from the family's reach,

it is at once a status reversal and another Yankee conquest of the South.

The heart of the piece, admittedly, lies in the sometimes wordless and violently physical teaching scenes, in which Helen gradually absorbs the deaf alphabet as a game, before finally breaking out of her linguistic prison. As Daryl Back and Hildegard Neil play it, that is a heart-stopping moment.

It also comes as the well-earned climax of a magnificent partnership that combines the ruthlessness of a prize fight with the fascination of a treasure hunt. With robust supporting performances, from Ian Lavender and Sally Osborn, Adrian Reynolds's Byrne Theatre production confirms again the act of teaching as one of the great dramatic subjects.

Irving Wardle

Mahler's grace

CONCERTS

BBCSO/Atherton Festival Hall

It used to be said, in defence of Mahler's revisions of Schumann's symphonies, that every conductor since Mendelssohn has tampered with Schumann's pastings, but that Mahler's pastings had a touch of genius.

That is no longer quite true. Haitink is one conductor who has obtained highly convincing results from the original scores (admittedly with the Concertgebouw Orchestra, who could play the Amsterdam Telephone Directory and make it sound mellifluous).

Nevertheless, Mahler's edition of Schumann's First Symphony is a highly seductive document. The high trumpet parts are spectacular but bizarrely inappropriate, of course, and something of Schumann's robust exhilaration is smoothed away, too. But the textures suddenly sound professionally balanced; the ideas more articulately expressed.

David Atherton took a very un-Mahlerian view of his task as conductor. He hustled through the outer movements

with almost metronomic exactitude (until a pacy coda), obtaining alert and clean ensemble throughout from an informed BBC Symphony Orchestra.

It was almost too prim and even-tempered in places and, stylistically, not so far removed from the well-controlled performance of the Haydn Symphony No. 90 which followed it. Here, the flute and oboe principals (Christine Messiter, Richard Hewitt) properly stole the limelight, phrasing their many solo spots with admirable grace.

Lucia Popp's withdrawal left Thomas Allen to deliver a somewhat brief selection of Mahler's songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*. He was, perhaps, too urbane in delivery to convey much of the sardonic undertone of "Reveigle", and his low notes were sometimes obscured by the sinister fanfares.

But the broad comedy of "Lob des hohen Verstandes" — the conversation between cuckoo, nightingale and ass — was brilliantly done, and he conveyed the sad lyricism of "Wo die schönen Trompeten blasen" with great warmth. Atherton's handling of the masterly orchestral accompaniment was exemplary.

Richard Morrison

Henze Festival Royal Academy of Music

This year the Royal Academy of Music is devoting its annual festival of contemporary music to the work of Hans Werner Henze.

The choice is convenient, for not only is Henze, a visiting teacher, readily accessible, but he has also written for a helpfully wide variety of instrumental combinations. Thus, this concert featured a polished performance by the Academy's Brass Ensemble under Harold Nash of the 12 *Ragtime* and *Habaneros* of 1975, approachable music which acknowledges its stylistic debts, and an object lesson in how to write in a popular, yet still personal idiom.

Derivation, in fact, seems to be the *ide fixe* of the evening. What was apparently a first-year string ensemble, conducted by Odaline de la Martinez, gamely tackled the suite from the film *The Young Törless* (1966), subtly trans-

scribed from the string sextet version. The predominant feeling which this music created was one of a dreamily precious atmosphere. Indeed, there are problems in the very fact that the translation from cinema to concert hall has, in the last analysis, failed to turn cinema music into concert music.

Later, there was a chance to hear what Henze could do with music by a composer other than himself. His *I sentiment di Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach* is an occasional piece composed last year, which sets Bach's Fantasy-Sonata for violin and keyboard of 1787 for solo flute (Anna Pyne), solo harp (Julia Webb) and strings, and which here received its British premiere.

Its lush scoring was graced with some excellent solo playing; but of the real Henze, we heard only *L'Autunno* for wind quintet (1977), music of strength, character and beauty. Again, it includes a derivation, this time from J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*.

Stephen Pettitt

Dignified affair

ROCK

Joan Baez Hammersmith Odeon

Although the subject is now horribly unfashionable, *An Evening with Joan Baez*, as it was billed, has more to offer than might be expected. For one thing, age has not diminished a clear soprano voice of tremulous character, powerful enough to carry an unamplified *capella* version of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" to the back of the hall.

Aged 47, Joan Baez in concert assumes a mantle of quiet dignity far removed from the bluster of contemporary popular performance norms. Accompanied by a pianist, on a stage decorated with a tasteful arrangement of potted palms, the formal cut of both her long black skirt and short grey hair gave the impression of a recital artist, rather than that of an ageing hippy folk singer at work.

Her choice of material was wry and at times, though never less than intriguing. She played "Farwell, Angelina" and the Scottish ballad "Mary Hamilton" from her first album, released in 1959. Here was material on a par with

anything from the folk roots revivalists of the Eighties. Also from that first release she sang "El Preso Numero Nuevo" which, with its Spanish narrative and light flamenco guitar motif, was ahead of the current fascination with "world music" by more than 25 years.

She has updated her role as socio-political commentator to include more recent protest songs about South Africa by Johnny Clegg ("Asimbonanga") and Peter Gabriel ("Biko"), both of which she delivered with force and poignancy.

During her chat between numbers she combined mild militancy with middle-aged ordinariness, talking about her son and his friends on name checks for Guatemala and El Salvador the next, but reserving the most graphic of her emotional candour for the lyrics of "Diamonds and Rust", the song about her affair with Bob Dylan.

Now that the notions of both political activism and folk music traditionalism are more favourably regarded within the ambit of popular music than they have been at any time during the last two decades, perhaps it is time for a reassessment of Joan Baez's contribution to current trends.

David Sinclair

On her own terms

Katherine Stephen meets the US novelist Toni Morrison (right), whose latest book, *Beloved*, has established her as a literary figure



On the highest shelf of American literature, there are the works of black authors: Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, James Baldwin would almost certainly be represented there. If you were looking for a novel by a black American woman, the shelf would be scanned in vain.

But now, if some critics are correct, there is one, and her name is Toni Morrison. Hype is the norm in publishing circles, so it is difficult to weigh accolades. A. S. Byatt has called Toni Morrison's latest novel "an American masterpiece," and Allan Massie says that Morrison is approaching greatness more surely than anyone else who has begun to publish in the United States in the last quarter of a century.

"You have no idea how that makes me feel," says Morrison, aged 37, a former fiction editor for a New York publisher who now teaches at the State University of New York at Albany. "Oh, I always thought I'd be a brilliant writer. I just didn't think anyone else would share that opinion."

She was in London six months after the British publication of her latest novel, *Beloved* (Chatto £11.95). She did not want to interrupt her teaching schedule earlier to tour Britain.

The novel, set in the years after the slaves were liberated in the American South, is the first part of a planned trilogy. The second part, which she is writing now, will be set in

Harlem in the 1920s and the last, she thinks, in contemporary times.

In this country Toni Morrison is not a household name, although *Beloved* has touched the best-seller lists. In the United States she is well-known and popular for a writer whose work is sometimes regarded as "difficult"; she has been on the cover of *Newsweek* magazine and was said, with her third novel, *Song of Solomon*, published in 1977, to have attained indisputable stature.

The intense, impressive woman receiving all these plaudits grew up in a steel manufacturing town in Ohio, the daughter of a farming family who had moved north. She read the classics when young — Jane Austen, Tolstoy — and went to Howard University, a black college in Washington DC.

There she met Harold Morrison, an architect whom she subsequently married. They were divorced after six years, while she was pregnant with her second son.

Then she began to write, but not because she needed the money, as she had a full-time job as a textbook editor. "Writing was private," she says. "It was subterranean."

Like a heroine in a feminist novel, she was doing three things at once: bringing up a family alone, working full-time, and writing. "I was able to do it because of the history of black women," she says. "I had seen people who had got

through with much more courage than I ever mustered."

Could she have become a writer if she had remained married? "I couldn't have. I wasn't interested in writing. I was interested in my marriage. So I don't think my experience is a cautionary tale any more, because I know too many people who do all that."

In the two remaining volumes of her planned trilogy, Morrison intends to develop the theme of the difficulty of loving: wanting to surrender the self to the beloved and hold on to the self at the same time.

Toni Morrison has been credited with large powers of imagination which is unusual amidst the sparseness of some contemporary women's writing. "I try to imagine fully the characters and keep their company. I inhabit them, like an actress does a character when she is trying to perform that character on stage."

During her time as an editor at Random House, she did much to further black literature and she is quick to praise the writing of other black women, mentioning Maya Angelou (who writes non-fiction) and Alice Walker.

Perhaps they should be singled out for praise instead of her, she indicates. Perhaps they should, when they have equalled the achievements of Toni Morrison and found a place beside her on that high, hard-to-reach shelf of American literature.

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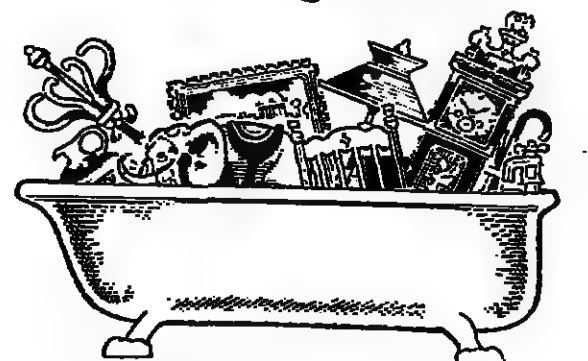
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FRIDAY PAGE

A holiday fit for all

Parents, as well as children, need a break — sometimes from each other. Heather Kirby discovers that a holiday apart can work wonders for all the family

I accepted that parents need the occasional holiday away from their children to recharge their batteries but what about children being given the chance to have a holiday away from their parents? When you have sons and daughters of different ages, keeping them entertained for four weeks at Christmas and Easter and another eight during the summer is a formidable challenge.

"A lot of parents still think packing a child off on an activity holiday is a guilt trip, as if anything that is mutually beneficial must have a snag in it somewhere," says Christine Ballardie, who farms at Buckland St Mary in Somerset and who sent her son Ben to his first camp as a ninth birthday present.

"In my experience you both have to grow up. They are tested by doing a lot of new physical things and they don't have a mother and father to tuck them up in bed at night, and you have to face the fact that they can survive without you."

For some parents this lesson is learned the hard way. When Anthony Edwards, a public relations consultant, put his 10-year-old son Daniel and his pal on to a train at King's Cross for a summer camp in the Midlands, he gave them strict instructions to phone home as soon as they got to the camp. After a nightmarish evening with no call, Edwards finally rang the police. "At 10pm they telephoned to say Daniel was perfectly OK. I eventually spoke to him at about 10.30pm and he said he'd got involved in some games then he'd gone for dinner and he'd forgotten all about it."

Old hands at the activity holiday lark know that as far as the children are concerned it is a case of out of sight out of mind, but frequently the first

experience brings anxious moments. Jane Gerrish from Bristol burst into tears the first time she left her two daughters, Helen, 15 and Jenny, 11 to their fate. "We had only driven a mile up the road when I said to my husband: 'We can't leave them there.' They had never been away from home before and where they were going to sleep was pretty rough, the beds were in an old barn. We had a terrible week. They both said it was the best holiday of their lives."

Many parents admit that if they could actually see what their offspring were getting up to, they would probably feel over-whelmed by the fun activities at Skern Lodge, in Devon, for example, is a jump into the River Torridge from a bridge which can be from 15 to 25 foot, depending on the height of the water. When 10-year-old Debbie Pennington's group was asked who wanted to jump first there was a deathly hush, so Debbie bravely volunteered. "I would have died if I had seen her," says her mother, Monica Pennington.

Strict supervision is the key to a successful and safe activity holiday. Debbie was wearing a life jacket when she made her heart-stopping jump and Skern Lodge was one of the founder members of the British Activity Holiday Association, which is in consultation with the DHSS in an effort to prepare adequate operational guidelines for companies; at the moment parents have no way of knowing which are the reliable companies and which are the cowboys. As Bill Higginson, chief executive of the association, says, "it is a lucrative market."

"We want it to be rigidly controlled so that parents can be confident that their children are being looked after by properly qualified people," he says. "This is a very important



Glad you're not here: face paint for holidaymaking children at Experience UK

issue and we offer a free consumer advice service to help parents to make their choice."

Other important questions are what is the ratio of supervisors to children, and are they qualified?

The British Canoe Union, the British Water Ski Federation and the British Horse Society Riding Stables are just some of the official bodies whose approval the holiday company should have if you are going to put your child's life in its hands. If it also caters for handicapped children, who at some centres go canoeing, poloing, or abseiling down a cliff face, you can be reasonably confident that the supervision is adequate.

Not that a wimpish fear of what dangers might befall

their children exercises the minds of all parents. Jean Edmond, a physiotherapist from Long Eaton, Derbyshire, cheerfully describes something called the Death Slide at a PGL camp near Shrewsbury that her 11-year-old daughter Sally went on last year. "They get to the top of the hill, hang on to a bar, slide down a rope to the bottom, and hopefully don't crash into a tree," she says.

"You can't go through life worrying about everything, can you? They have their own first aid and if anything gets broken, I imagine they know how to cope and would contact us."

There are 82 companies in England, Scotland and Wales who belong to the BAH, although there are about 1,000 activity centres in Britain. A residential week costs, on average, £165 — which includes tuition, equipment and

all meals. This is much more expensive than, for example, France where activity holidays are much more common.

"I am much more worried when my children go on trips with the school," says Jeanne Helena Eggleton, who has sent her three children on one of these holidays. "I used to give them letters and postcards addressed and stamped with 'Dear Mum' already written on them, but I was very lucky if I ever received any."

There is only one more danger that first-time parents should perhaps be aware of before they send off their offspring: every time my 13-year-old son comes back, he is pursued by long-distance telephone calls and scented letters. When I try to find out about these holiday romances, he buries his head in a cushion. But he is clearly not as shy as that with all females.

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Designs on display



BARBARA AMIEL

Last Sunday night, I walked into Currey's House at the corner of Pavilion Road, just a scamper of my Fra Rossetti brogues away from the International Designer Room at Harrods. I mention my shoes because the evening was being held by half a dozen British fashion designers as a part of British Fashion Week, and everyone was eyeing each other's labels. My label quotient was a bit iffy since most of my clothes were in Pickfords' boxes after a move, which left me stranded in my Jaeger wool-and-terylene trousers with nearly matching sweater.

The girl on the door eyed me suspiciously and I returned it with a none-too-discreet flash of my borrowed Hermes bag (£1,200) and a slow rotating glimpse of my old Bulgari watch. From the depths of my butter-soft leather bag I proffered my invitation and smiled again. She nodded but peered hesitantly into my bag which was stuffed with unwashed smalls to go into the washing machine at the new flat, as well as a 100-year-old tin of foie gras retrieved from the fridge of the old one. It had been given to my ex-husband and me as a wedding present and I planned to see it arise triumphant as a housewarming gift.

In a large room behind the floral arrangements there were rows of designer Janet Ibbotson's clothes being modelled by a terrific looking blonde with a perfect size eight figure. A pair of size 12 women in almost identical Janet Ibbotson suits were studying the chocolate brown three piece on the blonde, which featured a nipped in waist and restrained pleat.

Miss Ibbotson was explaining the need for wardrobe updating: "I've redesigned the jacket," she paused delicately, "and I hate to say it, but don't you think it's even better?" The women nodded enthusiastically, their shoulders rounding with embarrassment at being clad in last year's inferior version.

I went up the stairs filled with palely loitering young men of the kind usually found at fashion shows and a lot of older loitering men who are there for the same reason but different predilection. The older men were trying to chat up 18-year-old models. Meanwhile, the younger men were trying to chat up each other. I

sort out the conflicting claims, but my ability to grasp the politics of British fashion is not as acute as my ear for moral relativism. I decided to give up and wandered in to see the scrumptious dresses of Patricia Lester, one of my two favourite British designers.

Miss Lester makes dresses that look remarkably like Fortuny pleating, except you cannot say that, because whoever it is that owns the name Fortuny gets very upset. All the same, they are cascades of knife-edged silk pleats and velvet that are beaded and draped and wrap up into a teeny ball when you are travelling. I wore one once to an Embassy dinner, and Mrs Thatcher herself came beetling over to me. True, her question was not entirely germane to the dress: "Let's get right down to business," she said to me. "Where did you buy those shoes?" As it happened, they came from a shop called F. Pinet on Bond Street. "Oh," said the PM, dismissively. "Too expensive for me."

That, alas, is the same spirit that in this week's budget abolished business entertainment deductions for out-of-town guests. I did point out Miss Lester's work to Mrs Thatcher, who said she admired it but felt wearers had to be "thin" to dress in them. That may be why Lauren Bacall bought three or four Patricia Lester dresses last Friday.

When I left it was raining gently. The Arab clients were being swept into chauffeured cars, their costumes gleaming with embroidery and beading. The English were clomping off in the rain, some with wellies at the ready. I must read Nicholas Coleridge's book, *The Fashion Conspiracy*. I thought, and learn about the relationship between fashion savvy and national character. My own theory is political and economic clout. Think of the smartest-dressed women in the West today. Not the French, not the Italians, but the Germans. Give a country a strong economy and she'll develop a fine fashion sense — and poets and artists as well. More money for defence builds a better fashion business than subsidizing designers directly. I don't think this will be a popular theory in Britain, but Mrs Thatcher might understand. Meanwhile, I'll just keep quiet about it.

My reverie was broken by a bout of politics. It seemed that some of these designers had been rejects of the London Fashion Council and others had banded together with them in solidarity in order to show their clothes in an atmosphere more sympathetic to couture than Olympia. I listened for a bit and tried to

the top of the stairs was £7,000. "Who buys them?" I asked. "Film stars, foreign royalty and often just ordinary people who save up for it." I felt the need to comment. "What is your inspiration?" I asked. She was dismissive. "The clothes speak for themselves."

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Making light work of it

From Mrs Jane Silvey, Summer End, Tring, Hertfordshire

While entirely agreeing with the fact that it is "very hard to combine an ambition to work outside the home with a feeling of satisfaction in one's role as a good house-maker," ("A load on your mind" February 24), I do not agree with the conclusion that it is the "efficient" machines which are to blame by causing women to set themselves impossibly high standards.

Household appliances are tools which enable the necessary work to be done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

TALKBACK

For example, why use a washing machine every day, unless, perhaps, you have young babies still in nappies? What is wrong with the old idea of one day a week for washday? The art is in doing what is necessary, knowing when to draw the line and then using the time saved to achieve your ambitions in other directions.

There are many women who go out to work who still cannot afford to employ professional cleaners or laundries. Without their modern appliances (ju-

diciously chosen) they would be little more than drudges.

From Dr Paul A Fowler, Barratt Drive, Ellon, Aberdeenshire

At home today, taking days off in turn with my wife, looking after my daughter who has German measles, I read Victoria McKee's interview of Christina Hardymont with some disbelief. The arguments of the latter woman were both illogical and irritating. How can possessing a dishwasher make life easier for husband and child but not the woman?

Frankly, if she lets spouse and offspring get away with not pulling their weight around the house, then what can she expect? My wife and I both work full-time and yet, like many other reasonable couples, divide the housework and dog-work between us. If I cook, for instance, my wife does the washing up and so on. The gadgets that Hardymont ostentatiously scorns most certainly do lighten the load, and are not to blame if people cannot keep their use in proportion.

From Saskia Whitfield, Denbigh Road, London W11

On reading Barbara Amiel's article (March 4) on the criminalization of possession of child pornography, I was disturbed to find how shortsighted some people can be.

She claims that the link between violence and pornography has never been proved — there is no need. The very fact that children can be made to pose for pornography is a violent act in itself. Child pornography perpetuates the idea that children can be so degraded.

The people she claims "need" this pornography are victims, too, of a society that says the way to solve a man's anti-social and sexual problems is to look at photographs of women and children in degrading positions. This is not a natural "human impulse".

All pornography reflects and reinforces an attitude towards women and children. While that still exists the attitude will create violence.

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JUNE 1987

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **BACK WITH A VENGEANCE:** Dame Edna Everage still joshing the possums. Theatre, Alkwyth, WC2 (01-836 2860). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

★ **BLUES IN THE NIGHT:** Hilarious black blues show, with Carol Woods, Sarah Woodcock, Helen Gester and Peter Straker singing their hearts out in a sleazy Chicago hotel. Pinner Theatre, Pinner, Middx (01-837 4506). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

★ **COUNT RAKOWSKY AND THE ZAGORODNIE MIMES:** Satire on recent Polish history performed by the English-based TOP (Theatre of Poland). Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pentridge Road W11 (01-229 0706). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

★ **CYMBELINE:** Harriet Walter a radiant ingenue in Bill Alexander's fine Stratford production. The Pit, Barbican Centre EC2 (01-636 8891). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

★ **THE FOREIGNER:** Patchy comedy. Nicholas Lyndhurst as a timid tourist in the US struck dumb with nerves. Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane WC2 (01-836 3878). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

★ **HAPPWOOD:** Puzzling new Tom Stoppard play. Spies, physics and misunderstandings, with Nigel Hawthorne, Roger Rees, Felicity Kendal and Ian Gledhill. Alkwyth Theatre, Alkwyth WC2 (01-836 6404). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

★ **THE NEW OF MALTA:** Sublimely tragicomic performance by Alan Armstrong in Marlowe's revenge comedy. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre EC2 (01-636 8891). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

★ **SOUTH PACIFIC:** Gammie Graven and Emily Beckett in a magnificent stage version of the musical. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street W1 (01-836 5889). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

★ **LONG RIVERS:** A Beyond Reasonable Doubt production. Theatre 01-734 1166. Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

★ **THE LAST EMPEROR (15):** Barrow's photographic epic tells the extraordinary story of Puyi, China's last imperial ruler (1912-1919). Old London Theatre (01-836 5107/5108). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8-11pm. Mat 2.50-5.50pm. 25.50-27.50 (D).

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 24

NOUVEAU: (b) One who is surprised to see a person in a business, literally an extra mouth to feed: *Laur tanté a croqué, y avait trop de nouvéaux.*

CINTRE: (c) Racing cyclists' slang for the handlebars. *Cratzenpauer a cintre, a pedaler flat-out with one's head down.*

TOMBE: (a) Jocular for an easy victory, slang from the language of wrestling, a translation of the English "fall", as in "two falls or a knockout".

BISTROT: (c) A landlady, the proprietress of a bistro, as in *Alla Milla*, the extraordinary word for the French local or boozier.

★ **LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES:** Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 6111, cc 01-836 1171). ★ **Me and My Girl:** Adelphi Theatre (01-440 7913/4). ★ **Los Miserables:** Palace Theatre (01-434 0809). ★ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's Theatre (01-836 3210). ★ **Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 2244). ★ **Run For Your Wife:** Criccieth Theatre (01-830 3210). ★ **Satanstoe:** Wyndham Theatre (01-836 3020). ★ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Theatre (01-836 8868). ★ **And Then There Were None:** Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

OUT OF TOWN

★ **ABERDEEN:** The Government Inspector: Anthony Quayle plays the provincial mayor and Paul Hays the police inspector in Compass Theatre's tour of Gogol's comedy. His Majesty's Theatre, Brighton (01-229 71301). Tue-Sat 8pm, 25.50-27.50.

★ **FARNHAM:** The Father: Rachel Kempson makes a first appearance at the theatre named after her husband, playing the Nurse in Strindberg's chilling drama. Redgrave Theatre, Brighton (01-229 71301). Tue-Sat 8pm, 25.50-27.50.

FILMS

★ **Also on national release:** ★ **Advance booking possible:** ★ **ABETTE'S FEAST (15):** Stéphane Audran as a famous Parisian chef who tests her skills on an austere religious community (105 min). Lumière (01-836 0891). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.30, 8.40, 10.50.

★ **BABY BOOM (PG):** Moshé Koppelman about a power-hungry careerist (Diane Keaton) whose life is thrown away by the arrival of a people-cheered baby girl (111 min). Empire Leicester Square (01-437 1234). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.50.

★ **BECKINGHAM (15):** A comedy about a man who is thrown away by the arrival of a people-cheered baby girl (111 min). Empire Leicester Square (01-437 1234). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.50.

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★ **Warner West End (01-430 0791):** Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.10.

★ **SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME (15):** Rourke cop Tom Berenger is assigned to protect a well-heeled witness to a brutal murder (106 min). Progs 2.25, 5.50, 8.30, 10.50.

★ **STAKEOUT (15):** Synthetic but spirited comedy-thriller with a dash of romance. Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez play warring cops on a routine stake-out (117 min). Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5066). Progs 2.25, 5.50, 8.30, 10.50.

★ **WITHIN A FATHOM (15):** Knockabout British comedy about two out-of-work British actors trying to maintain sanity (107 min). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.45.

GALLERIES

★ **BERNARD MORRIS:** First London one-man show for a young Scottish painter whose pictures interpret the story of St Brendan. Friends and Family Gallery, 17-18 Great Sutton Street, London EC2 (01-250 1982). Tue-Fri 11-6pm, Sat-Sun 2-6pm, free, until April 10.

★ **PHILIP MEAD:** The gallery's artist-in-residence opens his studio to the public today for the last time between noon and 3.30pm. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-477 3211). Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free.

★ **RUTH KLUGMAN:** Mainly abstract paintings by an American artist best known for being in the car crash that killed Jackson Pollock. The Old Gallery, Metropolitan Museum, Wapping Wall, London E1 (01-481 0891). Wed-Sun 11-6pm, free, until April 15.

★ **GIACOMO MANZU:** A retrospective of work by an 80-year-old Italian figurative sculptor. Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX2 (01-262 6000). Tue-Sat 10-4pm, Sun 2-4pm, free, until April 15.

★ **EDOUARD VUILLARD (1868-1940):** A rare opportunity to see paintings, pastels, watercolours and drawings by a major French artist. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-477 3211). Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free.

★ **RIBA Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, London W1 (01-636 5533):** Mon-Fri 11-5pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until April 23.

★ **JOHN KEANE:** Paintings based on the political realities of life in Nicaragua by an important young, history painter. Angela Flowers Gallery, 11 Tottenham Mews, London W1 (01-637 3089). Mon-Fri 10.30-6pm, Sat 10.30-12.30pm, free, until March 28.

★ **CHARLES HOLDEN (1875-1950):** Drawings and models tracing the career of the architect who made London University and Art Deco style stations. RIBA Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, London W1 (01-636 5533). Mon-Fri 11-5pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until April 23.

★ **FROM BERLIN:** The Berlin Piano Trio presents Mozart's *Divertimento K254*. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-836 2141). 7.30pm, 25-26.

TOP FILMS AND VIDEOS

LONDON: (1) The Last Emperor (15) (2) Someone to Watch Over Me (15) (3) Stakeout (15) (4) Baby Boom (PG) (5) White Mischief (15) (6) White Mischief (15) (7) White Mischief (15) (8) White Mischief (15) (9) White Mischief (15) (10) White Mischief (15)

UNITED STATES: (1) Good Morning Vietnam (15) (2) Vice Versa (15) (3) Stakeout (15) (4) Baby Boom (PG) (5) White Mischief (15) (6) White Mischief (15) (7) White Mischief (15) (8) White Mischief (15) (9) White Mischief (15) (10) White Mischief (15)

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An artist ahead of his time

Richard Redgrave RA (1804-1888) was not the conventional Victorian artist he would appear to have been given the evidence of "Ophelia Weaving Her Garland" (above) painted in 1842. An exhibition currently at the Victoria and Albert Museum, while reminding us of the traditional academic qualities of his painting, revives Redgrave's reputation as a reformer, a champion of good industrial design. Although he is best known for sentimental pictures of jilted women, the oppressed poor and guaranteed tear-jerkers like his celebrated "The Emigrant's Last Sight of Home", his exhortations to improve the visual quality of household goods makes him a precursor of socialist radicals such as William Morris. Redgrave is a man for the 1990s: being an embodiment of self-help of design, with everything, and sound job training. He was a

sub-champing educationalist, a committed believer in the improvement of public taste by using artists to design decorative household commodities. The exhibition features his own designs for glassware, shaving mugs and even the funeral carriage of the Duke of Wellington, an outlandish vehicle resembling a light tank covered with gilt. Redgrave was a man of considerable energy; when he wasn't painting, designing or lecturing, he was helping to organize the Great Exhibition of 1851, establishing 120 art schools and overseeing the development of the new museum complex in South Kensington. The exhibition, which describes all aspects of Redgrave's life and work, is at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (01-938 5344), Monday to Saturday, 10am-5.50pm, Sunday 2.30-5.50pm, free, until May 22. David Lee

★ **THE HOTHOUSE FLOWERS:** Set in a Victorian drawing room, PO Box 287, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 8BD. Progs 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

★ **THE FALL:** Mark E Smith presiding over a line-up that has produced the most commercially successful of the group's nine-year history. Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4061/7.30pm, 9.30pm).

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★ **THE FOGUES:** A return to the north London environs from which the group first sprang in 1982 as a raucous folk-punk nightmare called Pogue Mahone. Town & Country, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-267 3334) 7pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm.

★ **ASWAD:** Veteran UK reggae group, currently enjoying chart success with "Don't Turn Around" (01-836 2860). Town & Country, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-267 3334) 7pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00** *Coastal AM*.
6.30 *Edgar Kennedy in I'll Build It Myself* (b/w).
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; 8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Edith Piaf's comments on yesterday's television output. To contribute ring 061-814 0424. **9.20** *Kirby*. Robert Kirby-Silk chairs a studio discussion on arranged marriages — do they have a part to play in modern Britain?
10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r). **10.25** *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme details and children's drawings followed by *Play School*, presented by Kate Copstick with guest Ben Thomas (r). **The Adventures of Spot (r).
10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Patricia Hodge with a leading 11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Susan Rae and Bob Wellings introduce programme makers to their critics.
12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live* 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Barker. Weather 1.30. *Neighbours*. Hilda Munnich receives her come-uppance.
1.50 *Film: Dangerous Liaison* (1957) starring Louis Jourdan, Belinda Lee and Keith Michell. Period piece set on the island of Corsica, about the young Louis XVI who escapes from prison in France and reaches Wales by balloon where spies continue to threaten the life of the young monarch. Directed by Brian Desmond Hurst.
3.20 *Ask Margo*. Citizens' rights advice from Margo MacDonald.
3.30 *Lifeline*. Alan Titchmarsh appeals on behalf of the Talking Newspaper Association of Great Britain (r). **3.45** *Woody Woodpecker* cartoon.
3.50 *Comers*. Young people's questions answered. **4.10** *Laurel and Hardy*. Cartoon vignette. **4.45** *Jackanory*. Hannah Gordon with part five of Bill Roan's *And's War*. **4.55** *Yogi Berra* (r). **4.55** *Knock Knock*. Game show.
5.00 *Newswatch*. **5.05** *Joe's*. Episode two of the first part serial about a young football team (r). **5.35** *Neighbours* (r).
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Sue Lawley and Andrew Hecock. Weather. **6.30** *London News*. **7.00** *Wogan*. Tony's guests include Alice Faye and Van Johnson. Plus, two more songs for Europe hopefuls.
7.40 *Comedy Club*.
8.15 *Dynasty*. Jeff's marriage is on the rocks after a trip to New York involves him in a compromising situation and Blake is forced to protect his business interests in order to further his political career. (Coastal).
9.00 *One O'Clock News* with Nicholas Wadsworth and Andrew Harvey. Regional news and weather.
9.30 *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Rocky and his team, on the trail of three missing victims, make a last-minute attempt to save the world.
10.20 *Film: Carry On Loving* (1970) starring Sidney James, Kenneth Williams and Hattie Jacques. Comedy chase as the Carry On team take over the wedding of a young couple. Directed by Gerald Thomas.
11.50 *The Rockford Files*. James investigates a murder mystery in which the chief suspect is a police chief (r).
12.35 *Weather*.**

BBC2

- 6.56** *Open University: Science — Magnetic Earth*. Ends at 7.20.
9.00 *Coastal*.
9.30 *Daytime on Two*: a play about three teenagers who start a photography club. **9.52** Part nine of the novel *Geordie Road*.
10.15 *How* seasonal changes affect the people and wildlife of Glenelg. **10.35** *Film: The Day After Tomorrow*. A thriller about a nuclear war in the classroom. **11.00** *The story of Johnny Cakes*.
11.10 *Logo 11.35* The senses: sight and sound. **12.00** Why outsiders are so often the subject of novelists' stories. **12.55** A That theatre play to choose between working on the family farm or a career as a kick-boxer in the city. **1.35** *Basilio Day* celebration. **1.40** *Film: The Day After Tomorrow*. **1.50** *Film: The Day After Tomorrow*. **2.00** *Film: The Day After Tomorrow*. **2.15** *Open University: Science — Magnetic Earth*. Ends at 2.40.
2.40 *Open University: Science — Magnetic Earth*. Ends at 3.00.
3.00 *News*. Regional news and weather.
4.00 *International Snooker*. Further coverage of the first semi-final of the Farnside Windows World Cup, introduced by David Ikin.
5.30 *Foreign Things*. Fashion designer Bruce Oldfield talks to Russell Harty about the things that give him the most pleasure (r).
6.00 *Film: House of Fear* (1944). (b/w) starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. Sherlock Holmes, in this mystery based on Conan Doyle's *The Adventure of the Five Orange Pips*, investigates the murder of members of a private club known as the Good Comrades, situated in a remote Scottish mansion. Directed by Roy William Neill.
7.40 *The Birdsville Races*. A documentary about a day in Birdsville when the remote town of Birdsville in the Australian desert holds its 30-strong celebration. **8.00** *Film: House of Fear*. In this week's edition of the home renaissance series *Dr Desmond Morris* explains to Patricia Colloff how one's personality can be revealed by how we choose to decorate our rooms. Harry Greene has advice for young housewives on how to decorate and how to choose a colour scheme.
8.30 *A Place to Call Our Own*. A documentary about 46 families who have built their own homes in London's Docklands. **8.50** *Gardeners' World*. Clay Jones and John Kelly enjoy the delights of Tatton Park in Cheshire.
9.00 *French and Saunders*. Dawn and Jennifer in another session of comic sketches aided and abetted by Rex Galt and, this week, Kirsty MacColl and Mavis Nicholson. (Coastal).
9.30 *Arena: Robert Mapplethorpe*. (See Choice).
10.55 *Newswatch* presented by Peter Snow and Donald MacCormick. **11.10** *Weather*.
11.15 *International Snooker*. Highlights of semi-final action in the Farnside Windows World Cup. Ends at 12.50am.



Basil Rathbone. BBC2, 6.00pm

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** *TV-am with Good Morning Britain* at 6.30 and 8.00 for half-hour news and weather.
6.30 *After Nine*.
6.55 *Thames News*.
7.00 *One O'Clock News*.
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The portraits that colour the past

**Commons Sketch appears
on page 4**



The collection boasts a preponderance of portraits: a total of 14 out of the 50 paintings at the exhibition are of single individuals, usually patrons who wanted to buy immortality. Here is King Henry VIII (left) in full fig, as portrayed by Hans Holbein the Younger. As the art historian David Ekserdjian says in his catalogue, the artist portrays his subject "on a small scale, with a delicacy of touch and an attention to detail that are worthy of a miniaturist" but, in his jaunty hat, he "seems about to erupt and burst free of the confines of the picture space". Above, Hans Memling's "Portrait of a Young Man", dressed in a black fur gown and kneeling solemnly in prayer, possibly before a representation of the Virgin and Child which is now lost. Below, Hans Baldung's liberated 15th century lady, with her steady, provocative gaze, low bodice and fox-coloured hair, may have been an image of beauty from the artist's imagination, dreamt up specially for the private delectation of the painting's original owner.



- 1 Caught in the act, describing Ulster's badge (3-6).
- 6 It's this wine that may cause domestic upheaval (3).
- 9 Criticize war-time legislation as the broadest of broads (7).
- 10 Festive occasion round here as abroad in Spain (7).
- 11 A single withered French flower (5).
- 12 I get a rule changed by the local boss (9).
- 13 Fixes directions at the end of a page (8).
- 15 What's the matter about money? It's an advantage (4).
- 19 Had a terrible time getting fruit from this (4).
- 20 Boss given a turn by the new arrival (8).
- 23 Idle learner sure to be confounded without this calculator (5-4).
- 24 Embroiled, topless, as requested (5).
- 26 Statically type of Barset chronicler, we hear (7).
- 27 With epistle work advanced to become rich (7).
- 28 So smart a guy, Bumpno the barman (5).
- 29 Jack Ketch's attachment to hosiery (9).

Put material on edge and tear a strip off (9).

Stupid fellow caught hiding in a stand-hill (5).

Look of capital cover by oil the nation into ails (8).

Game that every one a color? (8).

Canoe of superannuated type back in service (3-3).

Pound metal roughly with a hammer (5).

Humblest self sergeant includes many over fifty on this sporting coast (9).

Academic appointment taken by the president (5).

Land describing our present government (9).

Getting out of bed, one seeking engagement as a journalist (3-6).

What a crooked fellow! America is breaking a commandment (8).

Rising artist, fully developed, is a bit of a dynamo (8).

Mix-up when grassland is covered by the sea (6).

Caused by the odd horse oil (8).

Material that fetches money in Cape Town (5).

Say, want to make some dough? (5).

Concise crossword,

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.
Times are GMT

Retail Price Index: 103.3 (January).
London: The FT Index closed up 3.2 at 1452.1.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

T&N buys Vandervell from GKN for £12m

T&N, the former Turner & Newall, has bought the Vandervell vehicle bearing companies from GKN for £12.7 million payable in cash. Vandervell made £1.7 million operating profit on turnover of £34.8 million in 1987 from making and distributing thinwall bearings, bushes and thrust washers.

It manufactures in Maidenhead, Berkshire, and in Italy and has distribution businesses in North America. T&N acquired Glacier Metal, which also makes bearings for vehicles and industrial uses, as part of its takeover of A.E. It plans to retain both brands but to combine their product, process and materials development.

Bond's hope £1m profit for HK-TVB for Doeflex

Bond Corporation hopes that the Hong Kong Government's new conditions relating to foreign shareholders in television companies would still allow it to retain its interest in HK-TVB, group officials said in Australia yesterday. Bond is interested in HK-TVB through Bond Corporation International which has a 26.77 per cent stake.

Interlink profit slows

Shares of Interlink Express, the USM-listed parcel delivery company, fell 50p to 503p yesterday. The group announced a disappointing advance in interim pretax profits from £2.1 million to £4.1 million on turnover up to £15.1 million from £9.9 million.

Brokers had been anticipating profits more in the region of £4.5 million. However, the company succeeded in increasing its share of the overnight parcels delivery market during the six months to December 31, 1987. The number of consignments handled each night rose to 9,400 from 6,200.

SR Gent lifts to £606,000

SR Gent, which supplies 90 per cent of its output to Marks and Spencer, made pretax profits of £606,000 in the half year to the end of December against £525,000 in the previous first half. Turnover fell to £42.8 million from £45 million due to sales of women's fashions missing their targets. The interim dividend was raised to 0.5p from 0.35p.

Admiral up to £1.2m

Admiral Computing Group, which designs software systems and offers a technical consultancy service, raised profits before tax from £1 million to £1.2 million for the year to the end of December. Turnover increased from £5.6 million to £8.6 million. There is a final dividend of 1.46p. On the stock market the shares were 90p, a fall of 3p.

US trade figures prompt revival

STOCK MARKET

The post-Budget slide in the stock market showed signs of bottoming out yesterday, helped by the latest US trade figures which turned out better than most forecasters had feared.

The January figure rose to \$12.44 billion (£6.7 billion), compared with some estimates that had pitched the figure as high as \$14 billion. That compares with the December shortfall of \$12.2 billion and October's record loss of \$17.6 billion.

Most share prices on the London market clawed back earlier losses to close with small gains on the day, helped by a firm start to trading on Wall Street. But turnover remained at low ebb with 472 million shares recorded on the Stock Exchange's computerized trading system (Seaq) at the close of business.

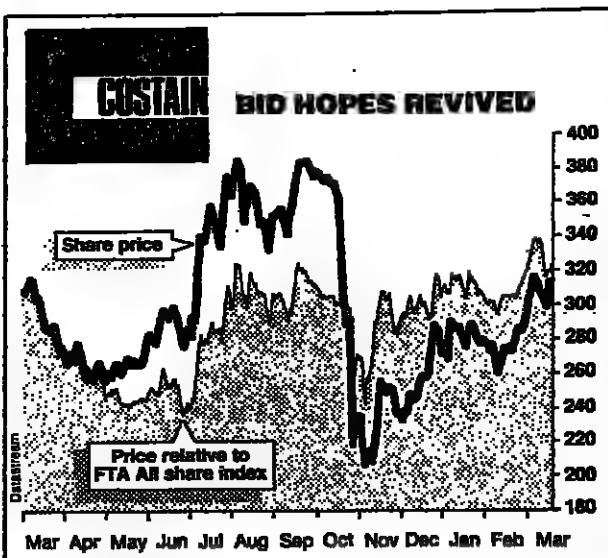
Not even the unexpected news of half a percentage point cut in bank base rates to 8½ per cent was enough to shake the equity market out of the

lethargy that has developed in the wake of Tuesday's Budget statement.

In his speech, the Chancellor had given warning that he would use interest rates to keep inflation under control. The City had taken this to mean that the prospect of an early cut in base rates could be ruled out for the time being.

Government securities responded to the move with early gains ½% with good demand seen for the new £800 million Treasury 1994 issue which had attracted little interest on Wednesday. Quotations later reacted on profit-taking and closed with falls of a quarter of a point. Index-linked issues finished with rises stretching to ½% as some investors decided that the Chancellor was easing the brake on his fiscal policy.

Dealers maintain that the undertone of the market remains firm but few investors are willing to open new positions ahead of the new account which starts on Monday.



The FT-SE 100 index eventually recovered an early fall of 14.4 to finish a net 2.4 up at 1,828.1. Some traders expect the two-way pull on share prices to continue over the next few days but see 1,800 as

the bottom line. The narrower FT Index of 30 shares also recovered an initial 6.2 fall to finish at 1,449.7.

Costain, the construction group, was chased 13p higher to 318p as takeover hopes revived. Trafalgar House holds a 6.3 per cent stake in Costain and although Sir Nigel Brookes, Trafalgar's chairman, has constantly played down the possibility of making a full bid, dealers now feel that he may be about to pounce, particularly after the Budget's capital gains tax proposal.

Dealings in Vosper Thornycroft, the specialist designer and builder of warships, had a flying start on the big board. Placed at 160p per share by County NatWest, the securities house, the price opened at 196p and touched 201p, at one stage before profit-taking saw it close at 183p — an opening premium of 23p. Broker to the issue was Panmure Gordon.

UK Paper, the manufacturer of high-quality printing papers, also made an impressive start after being 11 times oversubscribed. Offered at 135p each, the shares started life at 151p and

then drifted down to close at 143p, for a premium of 8p. Bejam, the frozen food retailer, rose 3p to 184p on renewed hopes that a bid for the company might finally materialize after the Budget proposal to abolish capital gains tax on profits made before 1982.

Mr John Apthorp, the founder, who with other family interests accounts for 25 per cent of the group's equity, might now be ready to accept a bid.

Between Bejam's float in 1973 and 1982, the family stake built up a considerable capital gain and the burden of paying the tax liability is said to have been the main reason why Mr Apthorp turned away suitors.

Now the Budget has changed the state of play, dealers expect someone to move in on Bejam.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

Simon's pretax dips to £23.5m

By Cliff Feltham

Simon Engineering, the process plant group, saw pretax profits dip last year by £4.4 million to £23.5 million. The prospect of a disappointing outcome had been signposted at the halfway stage, but even so the shares still fell 4p to 272p.

The company, which beat off a management buy-in bid in 1986, suffered from a setback in its contracting division, with profits more than halved to just over £4 million. Delays in new orders and difficult margins on work already being handled led to the slowdown. Elsewhere, the manufacturing side improved slightly with profits of £8.1

million, and the services division moved sharply ahead from £7.1 million to just over £10 million.

Mr Roy Roberts, the new chairman, remains confident about the current year and is backing his hopes by paying an unchanged final dividend of 8.8p, which with the interim gives shareholders a same-again total payout of 11.5p.

He says recent acquisitions have improved the underlying profit potential, helped by the clinching of a £260 million order to build an electronic control equipment factory at Yerevan, the capital of Armenia in the USSR.

Westgarth leaps to £277,000

By Geoff Foster

Richardson Westgarth, the engineer and stockholder, reported its best preliminary figures since 1980.

Pretax profits were up sharply from £24,000 to £277,000, for the year ended December. Dividend payments were resumed with a final of 1p. Earnings per share improved to 1.4p.

The recovery would have been even more pronounced if the entire £582,000 profit achieved by its newly acquired John O Holt subsidiary, instead of only £92,000, had been included in the figures.

Subsidiary's loss leads to slide in HTV shares

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Shares in HTV Group, the Wales and Bristol television contractor, fell sharply, from 255p to 241p, after the company revealed that Frost & Reed, its fine art subsidiary, had made an £88,000 loss in the half-year to January 31, compared with a profit of £223,000 in the same period a year ago.

The company explained that Frost & Reed had had a difficult half year, due principally to a fall in demand in the United States. But City anxiety over the loss followed the poor performance of an earlier diversification in stationery, which had to be closed down after heavy losses. In the year to July 1987, the fine art division had made an operating profit of £346,000.

Overall, HTV increased pretax profits by 6.5 per cent to £8.315 million in the six months, which includes the best part of the year for television advertising. After

charging exchequer levy of £3.3 million (£4.3 million), profits from television rose 11 per cent to £8.066 million, thanks to a £3.5 million rise in advertising revenue, to £47.2 million.

But the group showed a separate small loss of £41,000 for equipment hire. This was a result of its policy of letting out spare capacity, since it cut programme production for export following the imposition of exchequer levy on exports. Nevertheless, overseas programme sales rose from a low of £0.4 million to £5.2 million. Earnings per share gained 3.5 per cent, to 24.92p, and the interim dividend is up from 3.2p to 3.4p.

Investment income surged from £142,000 to £378,000 as HTV's cash balances more than doubled, to £11.9 million.

As usual, the company warned that the second half profit will be significantly

lower. But City analysts still expect an increase on last year's annual pretax profit, of £11.9 million, to as much as £13.5 million to £14 million.

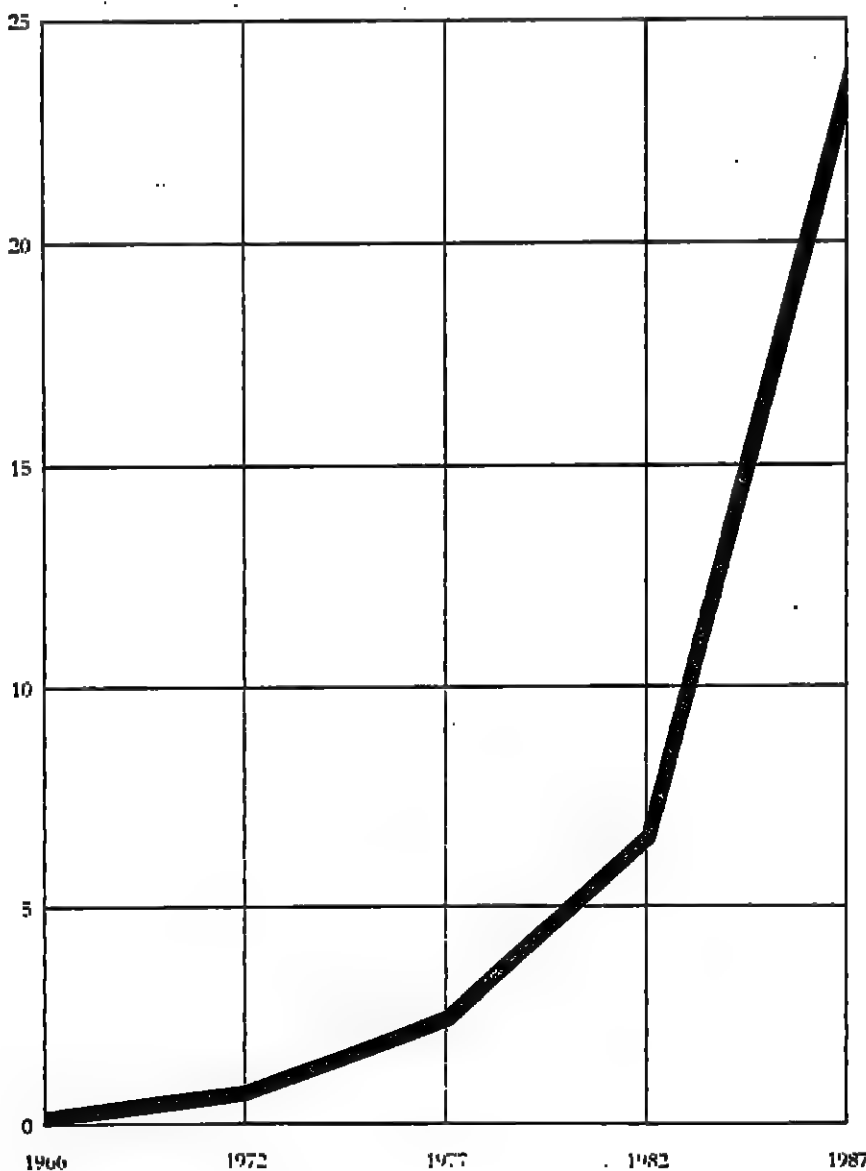
At the same time, Television South West reported an 8.5 per cent rise in pretax profit, to £1.961 million, for the six months to end-January, thanks to a 10.5 per cent rise in advertising revenue, to £17.7 million. Exchequer levy rose from £867,000 to £948,000.

TSW has raised its half year dividend from 0.83p per share to 0.9p on an increase in earnings per share from 5.29p to 5.68p.

The company expects a satisfactory increase in full year profits, from last year's £2.5 million.

After studying the market for satellite broadcasting, TSW believes it will emerge as a significant addition to regional television.

The graph shows growth in BTR's Earnings per Share over the last 21 years, in pence.



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*The above figures have been adjusted both for bonus and rights issues and to conform to Statement of Standard Accounting Practice 14 accounting for acquisitions (1978 onwards).

Profits at Istel leap by 131% to £5.02m

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Istel, one of Britain's leading computer systems companies which was privatized out of the Rover Group in June last year, has boosted its pretax profits by 131 per cent during 1987. They rose from £2.17 million to £5.02 million.

This was on sales of £70.15 million, up 15 per cent on £60.76 million. Earnings per share fully diluted stood at 7.1p in 1986 but now stands at 51.6p.

Istel left Rover in a management-led employee buyout with Rover retaining its largest individual shareholder at 25 per cent of the main holding company. Rover is also Istel's largest customer.

Three-quarters of the holding company equity belongs to Istel Group which is owned two-thirds by management and employees and a third by a consortium of institutions. Revenue from Rover Group companies was £40.2 million, 4 per cent up, and representing 57 per cent of total revenue. But revenue from other sources jumped 36 per cent to £29.9 million.

Istel's ailing United States operation which in 1986 had a loss on a turnover of just above £1 million has been turned to a "healthy profit" on increased turnover.

Mr John Leighfield, chairman and managing director, described 1987 as a "very successful milestone year" and added: "The major improvement in profit was not achieved at the expense of the continuing development of the business. More than £11 million was spent in our planned investment programme in products, services, facilities and our key asset, our people."

There were tremendous prospects for growth in computer integrated manufacture and on communications network services.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	9.00%
BCCI	9.00%
Consolidated Credit	9.00%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	9.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	9.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	9.00%
Cibbank NA	8.50%

Bank of Scotland Base Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that, with effect from Friday 18th March 1988 its Base Rate will be decreased from 9.00% per annum to 8.50% per annum

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The Royal Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from close of business on 18 March 1988 its Base Rate for advances will be reduced from 9% to 8½% per annum.

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Lower boost

Delta Gro 11% to £

Aircraft s

Old ship high-te

Lower cocoa prices help boost Rowntree to £112m

By Carol Ferguson

Stable confectionery prices caused a surge in sales at Rowntree last year, boosting turnover by 11 per cent to £1.4 billion.

Mr Kenneth Dixon, Rowntree's chairman, said cocoa prices had fallen by between 1 per cent and 15 per cent a year for the last two years, leading to low confectionery prices. "The price of a KitKat has been 18p since 1986, and low prices are causing people to buy more."

He also confirmed that he was in the final stages of negotiations for the disposal of Rowntree's US and British savoury snack foods businesses, and that the sale could be finalized "within a month".

The benefit of lower cocoa prices was also reflected in confectionery margins, which widened by 2 percentage points last year, helping to boost pretax profits by 33 per cent to £112 million. However Mr Dixon pointed out that while cocoa was an important cost, other factors were also at work.

"We have many important brands with no cocoa content," he said. "But labour productivity has increased by 7 per cent for the last four or five years due to greater mechanization, improved utilization of people, and the transferring of production in Britain so that similar processes are in the same place — in effect everything that usu-



Confident outlook: Kenneth Dixon, Rowntree's chairman

ally comes under the heading of improved efficiency."

He said that the British labour force, now numbering 11,862, had been falling at a rate of 1,000 a year for the last five years.

The group dividend was increased by 14 per cent to

15.5p net. The shares slipped 5p to 460p.

Profits from British confectionery rose by 17 per cent to £51 million. Mr Dixon said Rowntree's market share had risen fractionally and was 22 per cent last year. The total market for British confectionery grew by 2 per cent last

year due to stable selling prices, and he expected it to continue growing for the same reasons, but at a lower rate.

Both savoury snack companies, which were put up for sale in January, had had a difficult trading year. Trading profits at Columbia-based Tom's Foods were down 26 per cent in US dollar terms, 33 per cent down in sterling terms to £13 million. Rowntree's Snack Foods of Southampton were marginally down on the 1986 result at £1.5 million.

Analysis expects the two companies together to realize in the region of £180 million, comfortably eliminating group debt which stood at £160 million at year-end.

Mr Dixon expressed confidence that Rowntree was better placed than many of its competitors to benefit from the creation of the Single European Market in 1992. Rowntree's European volumes were up 11 per cent last year.

With European turnover of £300 million, he said the group had now been investing on the Continent for more than 20 years and had built up an important range of international and national brands. He added: "North America remains a major source of opportunities, and we shall continue to look for development in that enormous market."

Enterprise Oil profit doubles to £50m

By David Young

Enterprise Oil, which recently announced plans to develop the biggest North Sea oilfield for 10 years, yesterday reported a doubling of profits, despite the fall in the world oil price.

The company made a profit of £50.7 million after tax in 1987, compared with £23.4 million the previous year. Pretax profit jumped from £19.9 million in 1986 to £72.5 million.

The final dividend will be 5.5p, making 9.5p for the full year, compared with 8.5p for 1986.

The company's recent success has increased speculation that it could be a takeover target once the Golden Share held by the Government expires at the end of this year.

However, the company's management and some oil analysts are now confident that the programme of growth for the company will put it out of reach of most likely predators.

Enterprise also confirmed that a second test well had been completed on its Nelson offshore field, 150 miles east of Aberdeen, where there are signs of a field which could contain up to 175 million barrels of recoverable oil.

The Nelson field could come into production early in the 1990s, and produce 60,000 barrels a day at a cost well under below that being predicted for other recent North Sea discoveries. It lies close to an existing pipeline network and can be developed by using a simple fixed platform.

The field will more than double Enterprise's existing oil output, which is now running at 58,300 barrels a day.

The fall in the US dollar meant that income was almost the same, with a sterling price of £11.06 a barrel, compared with £10.45 in 1986.

Mr William Bell, the chairman of Enterprise, said: "The most encouraging feature of last year's performance is the clear evidence that the sharp fall in the oil price has not impaired our ability to grow the business in line with our original strategy."

"If we look ahead, against the expectation that oil prices will be on the rise again in a few years, the group is well placed to benefit."

"Our production from the North Sea is set to double in the early 1990s, and with our financial strength and proven record of exploration success we can look forward with confidence to the next phase of the group's development."

COMMENT David Brewerton

Alexander warns the City's ragtime band

Robert Alexander QC is not a man who easily has the wool pulled over his eyes, but it does appear that the City has done a neat job in hiding just how fast and loose it had been playing with the Takeover Panel before he arrived on the scene as chairman. They had better not try it now.

In the Denning Lecture delivered last night to the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry, Mr Alexander concentrated on the role of the Takeover Panel, and its undoubted success in holding the ring in 5,000 takeovers in the last 20 years. It is a tribute to the thoroughness of the first chairman of the Panel, Lord Shawcross, that there are today only three more rules than there were when the City Code was drawn up in 1968. There are, of course, volumes of practice notes which have been framed in the light of experience.

But although the Panel has, as Mr Alexander demonstrated in his lecture, stood the test of time there have been occasions when it has either turned a blind eye to what has been going on, or was in blissful ignorance. Neither option can be excused.

Mr Alexander pointed out, rightly, that the responsibility placed on financial advisers under the Code is considerable. "With isolated lapses, it has been accepted by the leading merchant bankers and other advisers in accordance with the spirit of the Code".

Unfortunately, the series of takeovers which culminated in the Guinness bid for Distillers, and the lapses which have been uncovered in the aftermath of that bid, were not isolated at all. They were commonplace. The Guinness affair has, however, provided a sharp reminder of the dangers of playing fast and loose, and standards have improved.

However, Mr Alexander may find

that, despite his watchful eye, they could slip back again. He is aware of the danger. He told his audience last night that "it is extremely important that, however competitive the climate, successive generations of advisers should be educated by their firms so as to appreciate their role. Nor is this merely a public duty tinged by self-interest. For those with long-term financial interests in the City, the proper conduct of our markets is crucial. Unfortunately, so is the need to win."

The chairman, who moved in only last year, points out that contested takeovers become the focus of press and public attention. They are often dramatic, he said, "and sometimes seem to engage instincts which in days gone by pursued territorial conquests. They reflect human ambition, skill and determination. The methods of achieving a successful outcome, or of defending a bid, consistently evolve and challenge the knowledge and creativity of extremely able financial advisers."

Sometimes, as we now know, that creativity goes beyond the boundaries laid down by the Code, possibly even beyond those laid down by law. Mr Alexander, said the public gaze which is put on takeovers "makes it important that standards of personal behaviour are acceptable: espionage on employees of rival companies or personal abuse by protagonists is no good for the image of the markets and contribute nothing to the debate."

The Panel is now within the legal framework of the Financial Services Act, and can pick up, and does, information from both the Stock Exchange and the Department of Trade and Industry. It has the ultimate sanctions of the Act behind it, and it looks as if Mr Alexander would be ready to use them.

Morgan stays above water

Twice last summer John Craven, the chief executive of Morgan Grenfell, met officials of Security Pacific, the US bank which owns Hoare Govett, to discuss a link-up. The talks rapidly led nowhere but the fact that they happened at all shows how nervous Morgan was of its weaknesses.

It was about that time that speculation mounted that Willis Faber wanted to sell out of its 22 per cent holding in the bank. Morgan denies this was ever the case and says that it approached SecPac to investigate ways of improving its weak equity distribution system overseas.

Six months later, the first problem seems to have disappeared. Morgan's shareholders seem reassured and the whole Guinness affair has been effectively put in the past. Above all, it has not materially harmed the bank's corporate finance activities.

But yesterday's results, with profits

dropping from £82 million to £60 million, show that securities operations remain a worry, particularly when markets behave as they did in October. Morgan's performance could have been much worse, but it managed to convert a £10 million profit at the end of September into a £10 million loss by the year-end.

It is the first independent merchant bank to announce figures for 1987, and therefore hard to judge at this stage. The £30 million drop in profits — excluding exceptional items — looks like a lot for a group of this size. On the other hand, 1986 profits were unnaturally swelled by two huge corporate finance deals which could not expect to be repeated this year. So perhaps it is unfair to carp.

Morgan has pulled itself out of the Guinness doldrums and is now simply suffering the consequences of increased volatility in earnings which Big Bang has brought to all merchant banks.

Delta Group up 11% to £64.2m

By Allison Keadle

Delta Group, the electrical equipment, engineering and industrial services company, made pretax profits of £6.4 million in the year to end-December, a rise of 11 per cent on the previous year.

Earnings per share rose 15 per cent to 28.6p and the total dividend was hiked by 18.4 per cent to 9p, after a hefty 22 per cent increase in the final dividend to 6.1p.

Profits would have been £2.8 million higher but for adverse exchange rate movements. Group turnover was marginally lower at £532 million as a result of restructuring.

Western Europe has become Delta's largest market outside Britain with sales of £272 million, 24 per cent higher than in 1986. Britain increased its dominance, con-

tributing £44.1 million pretax profits, or nearly 69 per cent of total profit, against £35.6 million or 62 per cent the previous year.

Delta made seven acquisitions last year at a total cost of £30 million. Its acquisition of the European plumbing fittings business of the American company Nibco has already exceeded expectations.

The offer for George H Scholes was unsuccessful, but Delta said it was strengthening its position in the residential circuit protection market through MEM branded products, embodying its new generation of miniature circuit-breakers.

Since year-end Delta has announced the acquisition of Kenmac Controls,

TSB's chairman replies to critics

Sir John Read, the TSB chairman, hit back at his critics yesterday with a tough defence of his stewardship of the privatized banking group.

Sir John was speaking at the TSB's annual meeting in Edinburgh.

Critics among the TSB's 1.9 million shareholders believe the £777 million the TSB paid for Hill Samuel was too much and that the deal should have been scrapped or a better price negotiated.

Sir John said financial advisers had said any attempt to renegotiate would have soured the takeover.

His chief critic was Mr Jim Reynolds, of a small shareholders' committee. He said the TSB had paid too much. Sir John denied this.

Temper became frayed

when Sir Ian Fraser, a TSB director, attempted to explain to Mr Reynolds how Hill Samuel had been priced. Mr Reynolds accused Sir Ian of being sarcastic. Sir Ian replied: "There is nothing to be gained from being belligerent."

Mr Reynolds was also told that of a total TSB loan book of £1 billion, there had been £60 million worth of problem loans to the troubled shipping industry and just £25 million worth of loans to South America and Nigeria.

Mr Reynolds said the management structure "looks like a gravy train". Sir John denied this and added that, contrary to Mr Reynolds's claims, the TSB did not employ 140 directors but that there were many members of regional advisory boards. These were paid "only modest sums".

Aircraft subsidies to come under fire

From Colin Narborough in Bonn

Mr Alan Clark, the Trade Minister, and his European colleagues face some tough talking today with President Reagan's trade troubleshooter Mr Clayton Yeutter over the issue of state subsidies to aircraft-makers on both sides of the Atlantic.

The US trade representative has a mandate to tell the European ministers that there must be an end to the massive state backing given to Airbus from the four governments involved — Britain, West Germany, France and Spain.

The consortium has received about \$7 billion in subsidies and, given the huge losses it expects to make due

to the declining dollar, looks likely to require much more.

The Airbus consortium is jointly owned by British Aerospace, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of West Germany, France's Aerospatiale and CASA of Spain.

At one time, it looked as though the US was prepared to escalate the dispute over Airbus subsidies into a trade war, and it still considers the aid as unfair trading practice. The chances of a trade war appear now to have receded.

Counter charges from the Europeans that the US aircraft industry has been subsidised to the tune of \$23 billion over the past decade have also helped inject some balance into the subsidy row. So,

too, have co-operation talks between Airbus and McDonnell Douglas, the US aerospace group.

The Airbus talks, held at the lakeside town of Konstanz in Southern Germany, are not expected to reach final agreement at their one-day session.

Trade officials are, however, looking for firm guidance to emerge from the exchanges on how the whole issue will be defused.

Mr Willy de Clercq, the EEC Trade Commissioner who is taking part in the talks, last week predicted that the main focus would be establishing the conditions under which governments would be

able to continue granting aid to major civil aircraft projects. The EEC believes that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) allows it to subsidise the Airbus programme.

Disputes over subsidies will also be a central theme of talks over the weekend at the same venue, with the US and the developing world likely to press the EEC countries to stop subsidizing agricultural exports.

Washington has called for a phasing out of all farm subsidies over 10 years from 1990, but the EEC has made clear that this would be going too far too fast.

Old shipyard launches high-tech comeback

By Peter Davenport

The Tees Offshore Base, which has been created from the ruins of a redundant shipbuilding yard, has launched an ambitious attempt to become the world's leading centre for sub-ocean technology.

An initial £10 million investment by the government-funded Teesside Urban Development Corporation and the local port authority has already transformed the old Smith's Dock — the last yard to build ships on the River Tees — which closed last year.

Over the next five years a further private-sector investment of up to £250 million is expected to be injected into the site by leading, international companies in the highly competitive industry of extracting the mineral wealth beneath the sea bed.

Yesterday, at a launch in London attended by Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Energy, officials of the Tees Offshore Base went to sell themselves to the world's sub-sea engineering and petroleum industry.

Their intention is to establish a unique centre whose resident companies will each possess individual skills and abilities but which will also operate as an expert consortium dedicated to winning lucrative, but complex, sub-ocean contracts around the world.

The downturn in oil prices has stimulated the need for cheaper and more efficient systems to recover gas and oil from the sea-bed and the smaller size of recent discoveries means that conventional methods are both uneconomic and technically unviable.

It is intended that the new offshore base will exploit not only that market but will also be at the forefront of future technology to extract other valuable minerals and food from the sea and sea-bed.

Over the next 20 years, according to the Department of Trade and Industry, the market for systems, equipment and services to exploit sub-ocean energy resources alone stands at £170 billion with the wider market worth much more.

Smith's Dock and 60 adjoining acres of land were acquired by the Teesside Urban Development Corporation and the port authority last autumn and already £1 million has been spent on demolishing derelict buildings, renovating others to provide up-to-date facilities, as well as a new system of roads.

Further programmes to provide berthing for semi-submersibles, expanded facilities for service and construction companies, storage for off-shore supply operations, and a sub-sea research and development centre with

a unique environmental testing facility are in hand.

The base has already attracted several leading companies, bringing 450 new jobs to the area with a further, similar number by the end of the year.

British Telecom Marine is to develop a full offshore operation facility and LV Shipping is to use the site to expand its offshore supply industry.

Marathon Oil UK has also moved on to the site — an operation that required some 247 loads weighing approximately 5,000 tonnes by lorry and trailer — and will spearhead its next project, Central Brac in the North Sea, its first sub-sea development, from the new location.

Mr Charles Tomkins, the managing director of Northern Offshore Services, which is developing the base on behalf of the urban development corporation, said: "The United Kingdom has not produced a significant enduring industrial base out of the offshore market and it should have because the offshore hydrocarbons industry will long outlive the resources of the United Kingdom's continental shelf."

"Circumstances, however, have occurred to create a second chance," he added.

Minorco has \$900m cash pile

By Graham Searjeant

Minorco, the Luxembourg investment company associated with the De Beers/Anglo-American group, has amassed a cash pile of almost \$900 million (£400 million) after the sale of its interests in Solomon Brothers and Anglo-American Investment Trust.

It plans to use the money to invest in ownership and direct participation in resource-based assets, especially precious metals. It has already invested \$80 million for a half interest in a US gold mining venture.

In the six months to the end of 1987, earnings rose from \$43 million to \$139 million, before extraordinary profits of \$515 million on the asset sales.

Earnings per share, including extraordinary profits, rose from \$0.26 to \$18.42, and the half-year dividend is up from 6 US cents to 10 cents. Net asset value was \$18.40 per share.

Close Brothers up to £3.1m

Close Brothers, the small merchant bank, turned in profits before tax of £3.1 million for the six months to the end of January, up from £1.5 million previously. Business during the second half has been running at a high level. Shareholders collect an interim dividend of 1.65p a share.

Rowntree's brands enjoy another year of growth.

1987

Turnover	£1,427m + 11%
Profit before taxation	£112m + 33%
Earnings per ordinary share	40.8p + 17%
Dividend per ordinary share	15.5p + 14%

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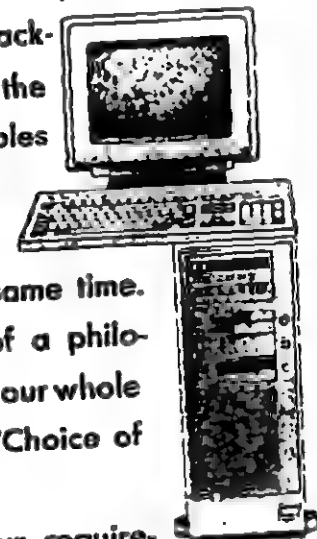
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● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Inert
payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend an
yield exclude a Special payment h Pre-merger figures
Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip
share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

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CONRAD DESIGN GROUP

The new gateway to the world

Today the Queen opens the North Terminal at Gatwick Airport, the best equipped in Europe. Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent, reports

The first passengers to pass through the gleaming new North Terminal at Gatwick this month will be boarding every type of aircraft in the newly merged British Airways-British Caledonian fleet—except one. The faithful old workhorse of BCAL, the BAC 1-11 which for years has ferried millions of people to and from Europe's capitals stays at the South Terminal.

The reason is that the new passenger walkway jetties can't stoop down towards the low-lying doors of the 1-11. They can easily reach the exits of the Boeing 747 or the DC 10, the 737 or the A320. But, as one airport worker who tested the jetties on the 1-11 said: "The passengers would have to ski down to the 1-11s if they used the jetties built for the North Terminal."

The difference was spotted by the airport's fire brigade during extensive pre-opening checks of the new terminal.

It is a typical example of the attention to detail to ensure that the North Terminal, which is today opened officially by the Queen, will be the best designed, the most tested and the best equipped airport building in Europe.

It is costing the British Airports Authority more than £250 million and is the largest single construction project south of London to have taken place in the 1980s. Its aim is to extend Gatwick's capacity from 16 million passengers a year to a maximum of 25 million by the mid-1990s.

The first indication of the need to build a new terminal came with the Gatwick Airport Master Plan report in 1974 and became part of the Government's long-term strategy for London airports following a White Paper in

1978, which also included the fourth terminal at Heathrow airport and the expansion of Stansted in Essex.

Since 1974, the number of people using Gatwick airport has tripled and movements have reached 160,000 a year.

Following a public inquiry into the future of Gatwick in 1980, the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for the Environment and for Trade granted outline planning consent for the North Terminal in November 1982. Detailed planning permission was then needed from Crawley Borough Council which passed each of the plans as they were submitted and gave the final green light in May 1983.

Now Gatwick has the most modern, efficient and one of the roomiest airport terminals in the world.

British Airways sees the completion of the North Terminal as of particular significance: it means that it has a unique opportunity to bring its new partner, British Caledonian, into the same building at the same time as the two airlines merge.

Four days after the Queen opens the terminal, the first 23 scheduled BA flights to destinations as far apart as Europe and the Caribbean are to be handled through the terminal. Five days later BCAL's long-haul flights will join them.

The 20-flights-a-day scheduled by British Airways this summer will also operate from the North Terminal under its new name of Caledonian.

Only the BCAL domestic services, together with the European routes operated by the "too low" 1-11s and the Cal Air charter flights, will remain in the South. The rest of the BA unified route structure will go from the North.



Cost: £250 million plus
Target: 25m passengers

There will still be many airlines flying from the South Terminal, for Gatwick handles well over 106 airlines in a year and only BA will be allowed to use the North Terminal under an exclusive deal with the BAA.

The North Terminal will itself grow over the years. Phase I will provide enough room for about five million more passengers and by the mid-1990s will have grown to accommodate another four million with more jetties and more aircraft able to park.

By then, too, the 1-11 will have been phased out and the CAA will have made its decision on whether BA will be able to continue operating all the domestic and European service still flown by BCAL.

In an ideal world providing all these extra facilities would have required far more space than Gatwick possesses. Its total area of 1,876 acres is

small compared to many international airports which handle far fewer people.

So the architects who designed the terminal had to use every trick in the book to use space as efficiently as possible. It meant building on three stories, wrapping piers around the terminal, using an elevated roadway to the departure area and a rapid transit train link to the South Terminal and the mainline railway station.

From the beginning, BAA experts worked with the BAA to plan the interior lay-out of the departure and arrivals halls to ensure that passengers' needs were best served. Outside, landscape artists and designers came up with the

solution of using the striking blue enamelled panels on the walls to give the building depth yet enable it to blend into the countryside by reflecting the colours and patterns of the sky and the weather.

The building itself is 140 metres square and 22 metres high—six times the size of the Royal Albert Hall.

There are the usual range of shops, currency exchanges and duty-free areas as well as an astonishing baggage handling machine which automatically sorts out bags by the sound of the human voice, sending cases on to the right destination in an instant. At least that is what the makers claim. Computers tick and whirr

quickly away in the background, monitoring everything that goes on and sending messages about security checks and ticketing problems to the right person while also looking after the 1.25 kilometre-long track of the monorail linking the two terminals.

The basic design of the terminal has been in the hands of YRM Architects and Planners. The most striking feature of their design is the use of 9,000 prefabricated panels covering the main building in an elaborate sandwich of dark blue vitreous enamel backed by honeycombed aluminium and wood which, as well as looking attractive, provides excellent sound proofing.

Signposting to the 84 check-in desks is simple, and the 17,000 square metres of richly coloured carpet is made in different designs to guide passengers along the right path.

It all began as a flying club

The crowds were flocking to Gatwick in their thousands before the age of powered flight had even begun.

The area, named after a 13th-century landowner, John de Gatewyk, was prominent in the 1890s as one of the south of England's most luxurious racetracks, equipped with its own railway station. The Grand National was held there during the First World War.

Curiously, although the Royal Flying Corps was looking for airfields during the war, nobody seems to have considered the swathe of flat land in and around the racecourse north of Crawley, though its merits became obvious when on three separate occasions pilots made forced landings on nearby farmland.

In fact, Gatwick had to wait until 1930 before it became part of the aviation business, and then only in a very modest way. Ronald Waters, a young flying instructor based at Penshurst aerodrome in Kent, was so convinced Gatwick would be an ideal emergency landing ground for flights from the Continent that he started to buy the land while talking to the Air Ministry about licensing the land for an aerodrome.

The Ministry turned down his idea that it should itself become involved, but it gave him a private users licence and Mr Waters started a flying club which seems to have fared quite well as soon as the clubhouse (a wooden shed attached to the hangar) got a drinks licence. Membership was £5 5s for flying members, £2 2s for non-fliers and £3 an hour to hire the aircraft.

Mr Waters seems to have been a pretty hard-boiled young man. In January 1931, one of the club's aircraft, an Avro 504, was doing aerobatics when it went into a spin

and crashed into a field, killing everyone on board. "Waters was inevitably saddened by the loss of life," says the Gatwick historian John King, "but at the same time he felt that Gatwick was at last receiving publicity since the accident was reported in several national newspapers."

Mr Waters sold out in 1932 to run a flying circus. The new owner, a rich American, soon tired of the flying business and sold out in 1933. Gatwick's third owner, Morris Jackson, was a real ball of fire and by 1936 passengers could fly from Gatwick to Paris and Scandinavia on services provided by British Airways Ltd.

The Paris service which ran three times a day on weekdays took 1 hour 14 minutes and cost £4 5s, including a first class rail ticket from Victoria.

The fun came to an abrupt halt in February 1937 when the airport became water-logged and BAL transferred its services to Croydon. This departure was a terrible blow to Gatwick. But the outbreak of the Second World War was its salvation. The RAF moved in and stayed until 1946.

The post-war airfield flourished as former servicemen started forming their own companies with aircraft sold off by the military—many of the planes in the 1948 Berlin airlift flew from Gatwick—but, extraordinarily, it took another decade for the government to come round to the view that Gatwick could become a prime civilian airport.

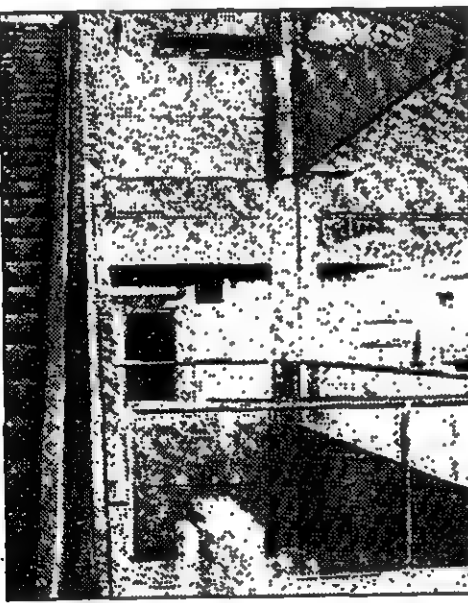
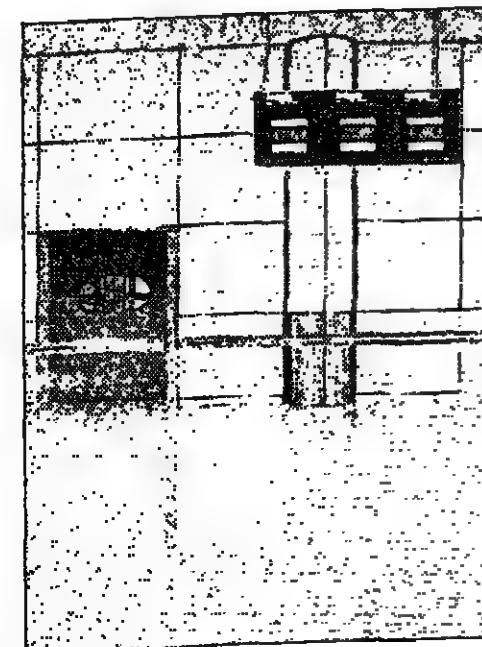
After endless procrastination, it was designated as London's second airport in 1956.

The airport grew on the back of companies such as the former British United Airways (whose first managing director was Freddie Laker) and later Caledonian Airways (subsequently renamed British Caledonian) which took over BUA in 1970.

Gatwick has grown enormously over the past two decades. But it all seems a very long way from the days when Ronald Waters was offering joy rides to Bank Holiday crowds at 5s a go.

Malcolm Brown

CONRAN DESIGN GROUP



GATWICK'S NEW NORTH TERMINAL
Interior design by Conran Design Group

For Conran Design Group the opening of the new North Terminal at London's Gatwick Airport represents the culmination of more than seven years' work. Every facet of the terminal's public spaces has been created by a team of Conran Design Group's interior and graphic designers.

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GATWICK AIRPORT/2

FOCUS

Coping with the travel boom

Now the world's second busiest airport, it has brought a huge bonus in jobs to the immediate area

On July 26 last year more than 89,000 people passed through Gatwick's passenger terminal. It was as if the entire population of Cheltenham, together with a couple of thousand from the surrounding villages, had camped in Sussex on the same day. Amazingly, perhaps, Gatwick coped. For the airport staff is now well used to marshalling the ever-growing crowds, writes *Harvey Elliot*.

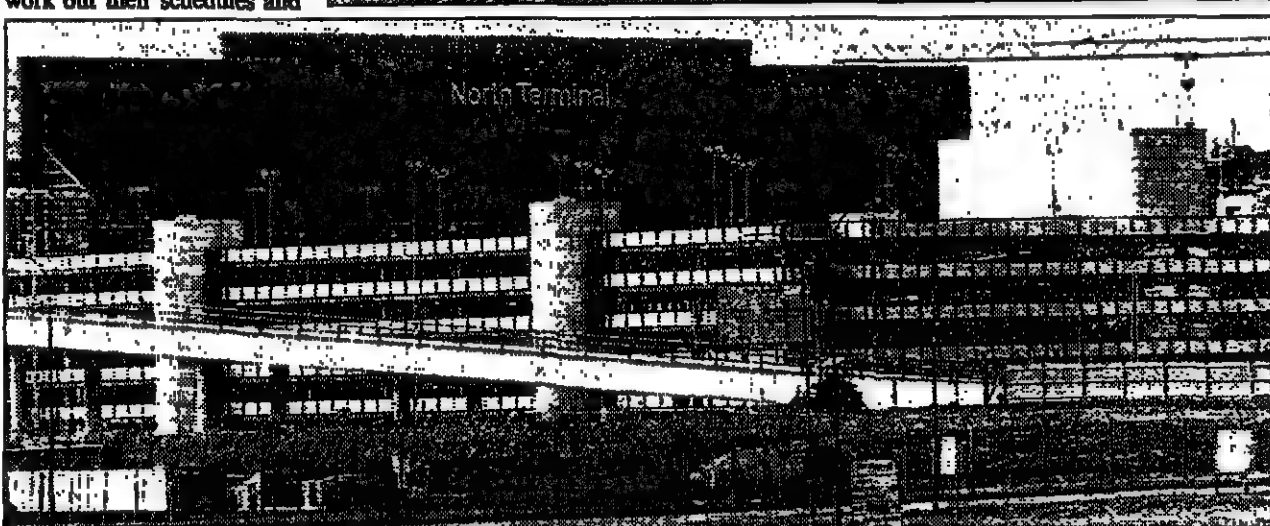
Since 1958, when the airport was formally opened by the Queen, it has grown to 50 times its size and is now the second busiest international airport in the world, having overtaken New York's John F. Kennedy airport last summer. In a full year, more than 16 million passengers use the airport — and for many the vast majority it is the only airport they would consider using. Not only is it in the right place to draw on the vast and wealthy catchment area of the South-East, it has easily the best rail link with London of any airport through the Victoria-Gatwick Express, rail link and, despite the crowds, still manages to retain a sense of being an airport in the countryside.

By the early 1950s the boom in air travel started in the 1950s and continued made it was obvious that London was going to need at least two airports, as air travel began its boom years, and in 1956 Gatwick was chosen as the capital's second airport.

Two years later a new terminal was formally opened by the Queen which became the first in Europe to provide passengers with a pier so that passengers could walk under their aircraft into the 1960s when the airport expanded with more piers, car parking space and office blocks to double the capacity of the airport. The runway was extended to accommodate the new faster, bigger jets such as the Boeing's jumbo 747, which were by now coming into service.

The demand for air travel continued to grow rapidly and in the 1970s a new 400-yard centre pier was built and the main terminal was completely

North Terminal



their "slots" — the times at which they can take off and land. At peak hours there are far more aircraft vying for the vital slot than there is space. This is because the Government has set a limit of 40 movements an hour with a virtual curfew at night.

Recent moves by the Government to ease the congestion during the day and to encourage airlines to invest in more quiet jets have enabled a slight increase in the number of night flights. But the airlines say it is not enough. Local residents, many of

whom depend on the airport for their jobs, are split between those who want even more development at any time of the day or night because it will bring them added job security and increased prosperity, and those who fear the creation of a vast, noisy monster with roaring jets day and night making their lives a misery.

Great efforts have been made to calm their fears and to care for the local environment even though with 17,000 people working there and thousands more in the immediate area producing the vast range of goods and services on which the airport relies, it is not always easy.

But 47,000 trees have been planted around the area, both to screen the airport from view and from noise and to make it look attractive. A consultative committee, involving users of the airport and representatives of the

local community, meets regularly to keep an eye on developments, to monitor any noise infringements and to make recommendations for further improvements.

The problem of managing such a large organization, with more than 150,000 take-offs and landings a year, requires an enormous, integrated management structure both in the air and on the ground.

The responsibility for ensuring that the airport is safe lies with the Civil Aviation Authority, which constantly checks the facilities and the work of the Airfield Operations and Safety Unit.

Just clearing the runways is equivalent to scouring 28 miles of a six-lane motorway but Gatwick's high-powered equipment can sweep the two-mile-long, 150ft-wide main runways in just 40 minutes. Landing at Gatwick in even

the worst weather is easy — provided the aircraft is itself has the right equipment — thanks to the Category III Instrument Landing System, which can automatically guide an aircraft on to the runway centre line in visibility as low as 200 metres.

The control tower is equipped with ground-movement radar to enable the aircraft to taxi safely to one of the 75 aircraft stands even in the fog. Gatwick Airport Limited directly employs 1,700 people who, among their many other tasks, keep an eye on the three handling agents who look after inbound and outbound flights.

The main job of any airport, apart from processing the flights and ensuring complete safety, is looking after passengers. Gatwick has created its own "village" of shops on the first floor as well as lounges, duty-free stores — of which Gatwick's is the largest in the country — facilities for mothers with children, meeting places, information desks and children's escort services.

Gatwick is a world of its own, always busy, rarely deserted even in the small hours of the night. There is always work to be done, whether on the runway, preparing the aircraft for the next day's flights, cleaning the dozens of

toilets, restaurants and bars, stocking up with the millions of pounds worth of goods sold to departing passengers or maintaining constant security.

This all means jobs — which is why Crawley, the nearest town, and its surroundings, have the lowest level of unemployment in Britain.

It is an area in which small business can always thrive in providing some new service at the airport, a place where there is a constant demand for new housing in which the ever growing army of workers can live. And it is a gateway through which Britain can export to the world.

Gatwick is second only to Heathrow in the UK in handling air cargo with its nine purpose-built transit sheds processing more than 160,000 tons a year, including 12,500 tons of Royal Mail.

There are 11 stands specifically set aside for cargo, including three big enough for the biggest jumbos. Potentially, the airport can handle 500,000 tons of cargo a year, has an animal-holding unit, radioactive material storage area, X-ray examination unit, a 50-ton weighbridge and a lorry park big enough for 15 40-tonners.

Now that the new North Terminal is opening, there will be more scope for expansion.

There is no point in planning for the present in the aviation industry: everything moves too fast. It has to be for the future, writes *Yvonne Thomas*.

For example, in Britain 15 out of 100 people travel by air in a year. In the United States, the number is twice as much.

So even just catching up with the Americans, which will be soon, means twice the number of passengers.

Aircraft are getting bigger too; super-jumbos are on the drawing board to take 700 passengers instead of 400.

This is why the multi-million pound North Terminal has been designed for change. The inner walls are mostly plasterboard and the factory-built panels that clad the frame of the building are all the same size and interchangeable. This means that windows, doors and air conditioning can all be swapped around.

Brian Henderson, chief executive of YRM, describes it as a huge stage set that can be altered to suit the current scene.

Only two-thirds of the building is being opened today. The rest is being held in reserve against increased traffic levels in the 1990s.

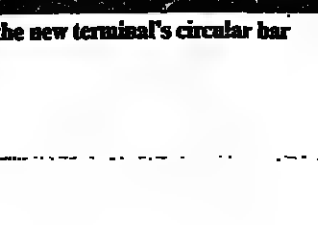
Lessons have been learned from the South Terminal. Although the new terminal will be taking only a quarter of the traffic at first, the check-in concourse is much wider than in the old building to avoid congestion.

He adds: "This is a modern building, but we don't want to raise and lower our architectural skirts." It is not a thing of fashion, but for now and the future.

Mr Henderson says they have aimed at making the terminal a place where all the traffic flows in a logical way so that there is no need for too many signs.

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A refreshing place to relax: the new terminal's circular bar



A loading bridge at the North Terminal

Pleasing the eye and ear

Who would want a bigger air terminus near his backyard? An airport in the country is fine for visitors coming in, but what about those who moved to the country to escape noise and traffic?

The Gatwick area conservation campaign — more than 100 representatives of local groups and traders — were ready to fight when the North Terminal was being discussed. Even the usual bait — that it would produce extra jobs — lost its savor in an area where there is not a shortage of work, but of workers.

Now that the terminal is up, the daffodils in bud and the area buffered from ear and eye with a huge earthen bank and a belt of trees, Neil Matthews, chairman of the local conservation campaign, says the objectors are pleased.

It is not only that the architects have been environmentally sensitive, it is also that the terminal is placed slap across the site that was once feared to be the route of a second runway.

Now there never will be a second runway: Gatwick is forever a frantically busy one-runway airport, the busiest single-runway in the world. Besides which, Mr Matthews admits, the terminal has its visual attractions.

Its bulk is cleverly disguised, the massive metal and concrete frame clad in blue enamelled panels chosen especially as the colour that merges best into the landscape. Even from the distance of the South Terminal it dissolves into the bluish green of the trees beyond, looking far more ethereal than concrete, and reflecting the sky.

Water from the concrete aprons is channelled into the River Mole, which has been diverted five times to make way for new constructions, but first it is cleaned and aerated so that it does not damage the river. The fish thrive in it. But a more sensitive indication is that kingfishers and dragonflies, both particularly susceptible to pollution, do too.

If there were a beauty competition for airports, the North Terminal would probably win the chocolates. But beauty, as all ugly sisters know, is only skin deep. There is also the question of noise.

This is a diminishing problem as aircraft manufacturers, led by the British — the BAe 146 is the quietest machine flying — concentrate on the nearest thing they can get to silent take-off.

The new terminus is sited so that aircraft noise is thrown towards the centre of the airport. The noisiest aircraft — the first generation of jets — are not allowed to fly into Britain at all. The second generation, the medium-noises, are restricted and may not take off at all between 11.30pm and 6.30am.

Some of the planes have had a "hush-kit" fitted — the BAC1-11, for example, has a 4ft-long silencer to lessen the din, but the days of even middle-noisy machines are numbered and airport officials expect them to be restricted even more with new regulations in April.

Passengers don't want their eardrums blasted either, a point taken at Gatwick where vehicles run silently on electricity, information is given on screens instead of over loudspeakers, and space-inverter machines have muted bleeps.

The outer panels of the North Terminal are sound-insulated. Inside, the atmosphere is calm with emphasis on natural light, views of the countryside and airport, and plenty of space.

The huge conservatory entrance over the three levels brings in more light and openness, and the floor is terrazzo from Italy, for which, says David Husat, the publicity man, a whole small quarry was used.

Keeping to the stress-free country airport theme, Conran Design Group, responsible for the interior design, commissioned two water sculptures for the departure lounge.

Yvonne Thomas

Flying start

The Rail Air Terminal at Victoria is the key to getting all journeys using Gatwick off to a flying start. Passengers are provided with full city-centre check-in, baggage handling, reservation and ticketing operations, writes *Tony Cox*.

Richard George, Southern Region's InterCity manager, says: "The terminal provides the best city centre to major airport rail link in the world."

The Gatwick Express, introduced in May 1984, now carries more than 5 million passengers a year on the half-hour journey between the Victoria and the airport. The service runs at 15-minute intervals through the day and hourly from midnight to 6am. From May, an improved

service using the re-opened Snow Hill tunnel, near St Paul's Cathedral, will take passengers to and from Gatwick to London Bridge station and on to Luton and Bedford.

At Gatwick, the Hilton International is unique as the only UK hotel to be within an airport complex. Access to the airport's arrival and departure areas is through a covered walkway, a four-minute stroll from the hotel's front door.

The process is further speeded up for guests travelling with British Airways, or an airline handled by it, because check-in facilities can be completed in the hotel lobby.

The hotel is also the only one in the UK to offer passengers the chance of ordering duty-free goods from their hotel beds. Orders are placed by telephone from a catalogue and collected and paid for after completing check-in and immigration procedures in the hotel lobby.

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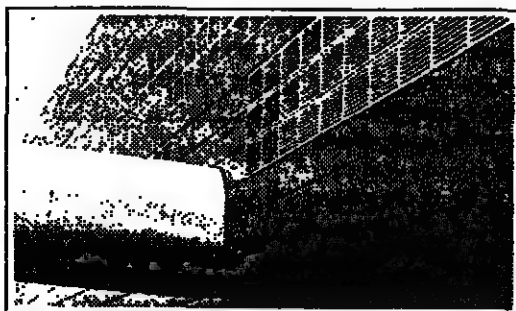
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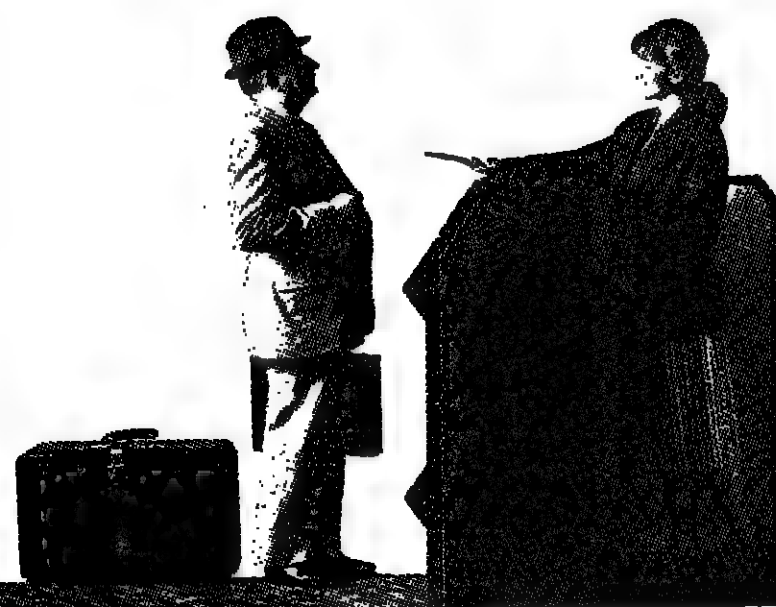
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(The only queue you'll find at
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It's quick by road, via the M25/M23 link, with easy access to Arrivals and Departures, and excellent parking for nearly 8,000 cars.

It's quick by rail: half an hour on the Gatwick Express. Trains run every 15 minutes during peak hours.

You can check into our new Gatwick-London Terminal at Victoria, and leave your

luggage for us to transport direct to the flight.

It's quick when you arrive off the train at Gatwick. Just hop onto the rapid transit mono-rail which speeds to our new North Terminal every three minutes.

It's quick checking in. There are 42 desks to minimise any queuing with separate desks for British Airways First Class, Club World and Club Europe plus British Caledonian First and Super Executive Classes.

It's quick from check-in through to Departures. Thanks to its innovative design

there are no more long-distance walks.

It's quick collecting your baggage. Handling is more efficient, and in the Arrivals Hall your luggage appears promptly at one of seven carousels. And fast as it is, our new terminal has plenty to please the traveller with time to spare: superb shopping, banks, bars, restaurants, and two business lounges.

But for most of our passengers, speed is of the essence, and at North Terminal you'll delight in our 'fast class' service.

Gatwick. Now it really means business.

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GATWICK AIRPORT/3

FOCUS

Shoot first, the birds are coming

Tony Watson, Gatwick's operations manager, walks across the aircraft parking bay, occasionally stopping to pick something up, then returns with his haul.

The bits and pieces he has collected look innocuous enough — a British Airways teaspoon, an empty "miniature" of whisky, a copper cap from some kind of container — but any of them could cause costly damage to an aircraft.

A jet engine is just about the biggest vacuum cleaner ever made, says Mr Watson, and anything it sucks up off the airport apron could wreck it.

Everyone at Gatwick is constantly vigilant, picking up anything they spot lying loose on any part of the airport where planes move or manoeuvre. Even grass can be a problem: the grass between the runway and the taxiway has to be specially pinned down with netting to stop chunks of loose turf being gobbled up by the giant engines of a passing jumbo.

Yet the worst offender by far, says John Bourn, Mr Watson's boss, is the humble suitcase wheel. Mr Bourn would like to wring the neck of the person who invented those tiny wheels that passengers fix on their luggage so that they can trundle it around. Walk on to any parking bay and you can guarantee to find them by the gross, broken off and just lying in wait for an aircraft.

Mr Bourn is Gatwick's

Chief of Airside Safety and Operations, responsible for making sure that the 16 million passengers a year who travel through Gatwick go on their way without mishap.

The services under his command include the fire brigade, snow clearance and the maintenance of the runway and taxiways.

The fire service operates from a station at the centre of the airport. Crews must be able to reach any part of the airport and be producing foam in under three minutes. In fact, the men can do it in just over two. "As soon as the bell goes," says senior fire officer John Black, "the best thing you can do is to get out of the way pretty quick."

The vehicles are enormously powerful. They will do 0-50mph in 35 seconds. "If you had an MGB-GT with the same power-to-weight ratio these vehicles have," says Mr Black, "your car would be going as though it was rocket powered."

The fire station is probably one of the best equipped in the country. It has its own training area on the airfield where the crews fight fires on full-sized mock-ups of fuselages and engines, and a "rat run", a special smoke chamber incorporating a man-sized maze, where firemen practice working "blind".

Paradoxically, the firemen probably spend more time on medical emergencies than



Safety first: whether it is scaring away birds with shots or manning an airport fire engine in a drill

they do on fires. They are all highly trained in first aid and are called to all airport accidents and medical emergencies, usually getting there first because of the speed of their vehicles. The fire station can get up to eight or nine medical call-outs a day.

Close to the fire station is the snow-clearing bay, row upon row of large, garish yellow machines, the most advanced of which sweep up the snow with enormous rotating brushes then blow it off the runway with a big blower pipe.

Mr Bourn says that the public seldom realises the hazards that snow can cause for aircraft. They have fought their way to the airport through drifts and icy roads and are angry when they arrive at Gatwick to find that flying restrictions have been imposed because of the snow.

There are two main problems with snow and ice, says



Mr Bourn. The first is take-off conditions. An aircraft cannot take off if there is more than 13 millimetres (1/2in) of slush on the runway. Beyond that limit the so-called retardation effect takes over — the drag on the wheels stops the aircraft accelerating enough to reach take-off speed.

If the crucial 13mm is reached, Mr Bourn immedi-

ately orders the runway to close and sends out the snow-clearers. It takes 40 minutes to clear the runway completely.

The other problem is runway friction. The normal friction coefficient of a runway would be about 0.8. But ice, water, slush or snow can lower that dramatically. "Airlines in snow and ice conditions can accept a braking capability of

about 0.3," says Mr Bourn. "We can find it very difficult to build up a runway to that required friction. We've got to put chemicals on and sweep it until we can get the friction up to a level where the airlines will say 'We'll fly on that.'"

Few people realise just what powerful equipment is needed to clear the runways, not least because the snow in Britain tends to be much wetter than American or European snow which makes it up to 10 times heavier.

While snow is a seasonal and intermittent difficulty birds are a year-round problem. Because airports are wide open spaces with lots of grass and drainage ponds, birds love them. But birds can be potentially lethal for aircraft. Debris on the ground is bad enough: it is infinitely worse if the "debris" is a flock of birds being sucked into the engine of a plane in flight, or even smashing into the pilot's windshield.

Mr Bourn has a team out 24 hours a day scaring them off. In the migratory season he

The big lifter

One of the most extraordinary pieces of equipment at Gatwick is the hover-platform — a cross between a hovercraft and a platform, writes Malcolm Brown.

If an aircraft belly-flops on the airfield, says John Bourn, the Chief of Airside Safety and Operations, moving it can be a huge operation, taking many days. Last time it happened, in Hong Kong, the ground crew took 10 days to remove a 747.

The hover-platform can shorten the removal time if such an emergency ever happens at Heathrow. The platform is capable of lifting a small aircraft whole.

If a bigger plane had to be

lifted — in the event of a complete undercarriage collapse — Mr Bourn could call in extra hover units from Southampton.

The system has never had to be used in a real emergency, but in a recent trial, when the BAA wanted to move a Trident to the fire practice area where it is now used for fire training, Gatwick's hover-platform coped remarkably well. It even managed to get the plane over a ditch using only a piece of spanning plywood. The platform could get the 40 tonne aircraft over the plywood without mishap because the hover itself only exerts 11b pressure per square foot.

would be unable to spot other birds or animals which preyed on them. It worked.

"We've reduced the bird presence on the airport by over 60 per cent just by keeping the grass six to 10 inches long," says Mr Bourn.

Of course, some birds learn the tricks of the trade and begin to recognise that they are being woodchoked. For example, Gatwick's drainage ponds used to be a big draw for all sorts of birds. They would descend in droves to sit on the surface and contemplate the world around them. To put an end to that the bird-scare teams started to draw tapes across the ponds to, as it were, obstruct the flight path of any bird thinking of landing on the pond. That would do the trick, the scarers thought.

And so it did. But not for long. "Some ducks have learned to land on the grass and walk under the tapes and get on the water that way," says Mr Bourn, laughing. "They're very clever."

Malcolm Brown

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Scheduled routes: Gatwick - Paris - Munich - Gibraltar - Palma - Manchester - Gibraltar - Funchal

Routes to be introduced in 1988: Gatwick - Brussels - Amsterdam - Frankfurt - Zurich - Geneva - Copenhagen - Arrecife, Manchester - Arrecife

How the airports earn their keep

Passengers may not even realise they are being "handled" through the airport, but that is what it is called: the processing of the traveller plus baggage from check-in to the point of being packed into rows.

Airlines don't do it themselves. They get handling companies to do the checking-in, weigh baggage and push it through for loading. They used to weigh people, but now allow 10st for a woman and 12st for a man, writes Yvonne Thomas.

Handlers fill in forms, see the aircraft is cleaned and loaded with food to the standard the chartering agent is prepared to pay for, move cargo, monitor the weather and fuel, get wheelchairs and escort children, and winkle the late passengers out of the duty-free into the aeroplane (60 per cent of delays are through passengers being late).

Three handling companies compete: Gatwick Handling Ltd, Servisair, who are newcomers to Gatwick though they are in 29 other British airports, and British Airways, who handles its own business and will be in the North Terminal.

Between being handled, passengers pay for the airport by buying things in the shops, so they have to be tempted. The airport needs an income of £278 million a year, which comes from landing fees, renting offices and selling goods to passengers. Every cup of coffee, every newspaper bought contributes. Gatwick Airport Ltd, takes a percentage.

David Hurst, their publicity officer, says: "We want to make the airport attractive to get the customers. They are being charged a relatively high rate, but it is not extortionate. It's comparable to any 24-hour West End operation."

"We keep a very close interest in prices and if we find anyone is going over the top, we check it. Duty-free is a perk. We set the prices so that spirits should be 40 per cent lower than the High Street price."

The people who run Gatwick organise surveys to find

It's the money you spend in the shops that pays for the airport's £278m a year service bill

out what the customers want. A pub came top of the list a few years ago, so now there is one called The Village Inn, an attractive, pseudo-Edwardian place with a real fireplace from a house in Edinburgh, book cases from a convent in Leeds and a bar that was a counter in a Glasgow bank.

It is part of the South Terminal Gatwick village, which includes shops in a mock high street, an a la carte restaurant, help-yourself country table, the busiest burger bar of their 1,700 outlets and the village post.

In the North Terminal, there is a shopping mall called The Avenue: a Burton unisex shop, the Sweet Factory, Dorothy Perkins, socks, ties and knicker shops, and restaurants and bars.

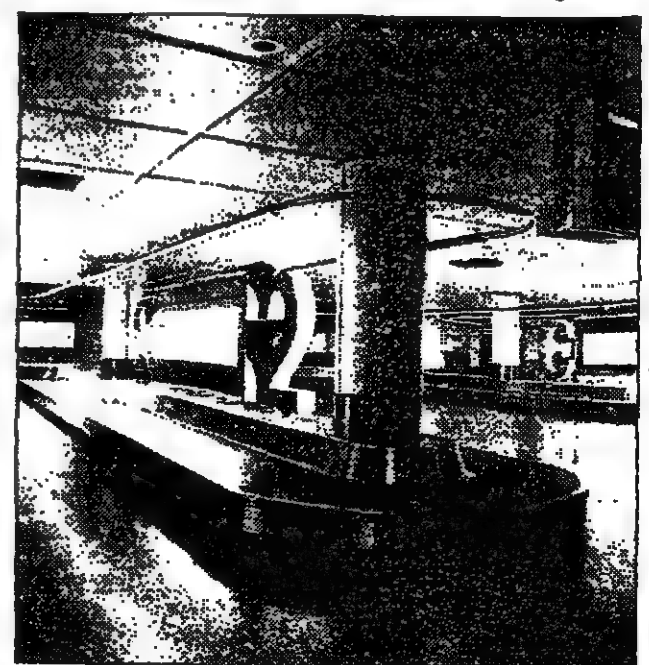
There is a television to

watch (it is not encouraged because people miss their planes), showers in all the North Terminal toilets, and bored passengers with lots of time on always go to the Gatwick Hilton Hotel health club.

There is also the airport church in the South Terminal, catering for all creeds: the Koran and the Bible are side by side, and a chaplain, mulah, rabbi and priest are available. Outside the church, framed, is a core of concrete that was the very place Pope John Paul II kissed as he stepped on to Gatwick airport on May 28, 1982.

Banks, a Cocks bureau de change in the North Terminal arrivals area, plenty of telephones that can be fed with coins, credit cards or telephone cards and reached from wheelchairs: just about everything but a cinema (they are afraid you'll lose your plane) keep the revenue rolling in to what used to be called the bucket-and-spade terminal.

And another thing: the man who said at the original Gatwick inquiry in the 1950s that jets would never fly from the airport, was wrong.



New-style carousel: an improved way of reclaiming luggage

THE COPTHORNE
LONDON GATWICK



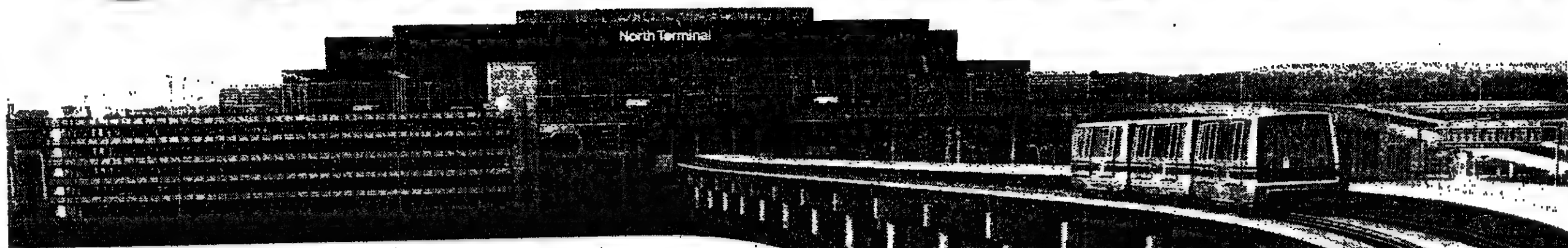
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Terminal boredom ends here.



This afternoon, Her Majesty The Queen declares Gatwick's new North Terminal officially open.

It is an occasion which marks a new departure for the world's number two international airport.

Even getting there is a novel experience. Our futuristic shuttle adds a mere 119 seconds to the 30 minute train journey from London Victoria. If you're driving, there's plenty of parking.

Inside, the sheer space will amaze you.

The terminal could swallow the Albert Hall six times over. Just covering the terrazzo floors exhausted the marble from an entire Italian quarry.

Once checked in (a more leisurely affair than you may be used to) you will find that time, appropriately, flies.

You can shop in The Avenue, a veritable bazaar of High Street names, full of pleasant surprises like a nut bar and sweet factory.

Of course, you'll also find our popular Duty and Tax Free shops. But come and see for yourself.

Anyone travelling with British Airways will almost certainly be using Gatwick North. (However, please do check first.)

Even if you aren't, you can always arrive a little early and pay our new terminal a flying visit.

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GATWICK AIRPORT/4

FOCUS

How to keep that smile at 30,000ft

Smoothing nerves in the air is a talent that can be taught, says Malcolm Brown

Flying can do some odd things to people, says Ruth Irwin who trains air hostesses at British Caledonian's training school near Gatwick. "When they get into an aircraft the fangs come out sometimes, or they're just very quiet or very nervous."

New recruits have to be taught how to recognize and cope with these swings of mood and character. "If you don't particularly like somebody or you have a dispute with them on the ground you can walk away," says Miss Irwin. "But when you're in the air you're stuck with them. So you have to be very delicate in the way you handle people."

Training involves role playing exercises, getting one group of recruits to act the part of irate passengers and the others to be the cabin staff. The inflexible rule is: if you can't deal with it, pass the problem up to a more senior member of the staff.

A claustrophobic flying tube, into which everybody is locked for several hours with absolutely no way out, is not a place to let tempers fray.

The in-flight services section of the training school takes more than 1,200 trainees a year, only a small proportion of them new recruits. The rest are established staff up for promotion or those needing special training for bar duties or for converting from one type of aircraft to another.

The longest Gatwick course, the five-introductory course for new cabin staff, teaches everything from make-up and deportment to how to read and use body language — especially always lower yourself gently to the height of a passenger to whom you are speaking, never tower threateningly over him or her.

Further up the scale, senior staff who are about to begin duties in first-class cabins are taught such arts as mixing cocktails and how to roast a fillet of beef at 35,000ft.

Miss Irwin's colleague Mark Wilcox says recruits grow to either love or hate the exceptionally disjointed lifestyle. "If you don't take to it you'll probably leave flying within 18 months to two years, or you'll carry on almost for ever. It's that sort of job."

Just up the road is a very different kind of flight training school. The men and women who enter the British Caledonian flight training building find themselves in an extraordinary world where they are taught the intricacies of flying anything from a DC10 to a Boeing 737 without ever leaving the ground.

The whole thing is done on flight simulators which look like something out of a science fiction film — large, six-legged monsters whose bodies (the

The simulator runs flat out every day

"flight decks" in which the trainees are cocooned) sway and heave and lurch at every touch of the controls.

Inside the "flight deck" the computer-generated images thrown up on the windscreens are so lifelike that within seconds of being switched on the illusion of flight is total.

British Caledonian Flight Training Ltd is owned 50 per cent by British Caledonian (now, of course, part of British Airways) and 50 per cent by Rediffusion, which makes the simulators. Flight training trains the parent company's own crews, but in fact more than three-quarters of turn-over comes from other airlines and 75 per cent of that total from overseas.

The simulators are in use throughout the year and operate for up to 20 hours a day during the peak winter period.

In Britain, the Civil Aviation Authority says recurrent

training must be done every six months. Simulation training is not cheap. Conversion training for a three-man crew on a DC10 would cost around £20,000, for which they would get five weeks' training, including up to 40 hours in a simulator.

But that is modest compared with training on a real aircraft. A DC10, for example, would cost £8,000 to £9,000 an hour. After just a few hours of that you would have overtaken the whole cost of both ground school and simulator, says Rodney Dean, the Flight Training Customer Services manager. The comparable simulator cost would be around £350 an hour.

A new simulator, for the European Airbus A-320, will come into service at the beginning of July and another four simulators (the first being for the McDonnell Douglas MD11) will come on stream by 1991.

The big advantage of a simulator over an actual aircraft is, of course, that it can be run flat out every day. It can also be made to do things that, simply from a safety point of view, you would not want to do.

"You can expose people to things that they are unlikely ever to see in the air," says Mr Dean. "You could, for instance, shut down all the engines in flight to see what the effect is, what services you lose and how you regain them. You would never, ever want to do that in an aeroplane and you would hope that it would never happen, but if it does the crew has at least been exposed to it."

The Gatwick unit does have one extraordinary capability. It is equipped to provide what pilots call "zero flight time training". Under American Federal Aviation Authority rules, but not the British ones, an experienced crew can go straight from ground school and simulator training to passenger-carrying flights.

So a crew which has flown one type of aircraft might retrain for a Boeing 737 on simulators.



In transit: the automatic train, running every few minutes, takes you straight to the plane

Getting there, easily

Gatwick was the first airport in the world to have its own railway station. Getting there is no problem. It is a matter of deciding whether to save on time or money.

Nothing, for instance, can be quicker, easier or much cheaper than taking the £5 half-hourly train from Victoria. But lots of people don't go from central London and a couple with children may find it cheaper to go by car, despite parking fees (£22.80 for 10 days in the long-term car park).

With numerous motorways linking to the M25 and M23 serving the airport, and with express trains and express buses all on frequent services, Gatwick is still one of the most accessible airports in the world.

Here is a comparison of costs and times taking four starting points, going by car, train and bus. The sample journeys to Gatwick are from Victoria, Brighton, Birmingham and Cardiff.

CAR: door-to-door plus parking. For 10 days, allow £22.80 in the long-term park, or £41 in the short-term covered park. Plenty of room, no need to book. Hourly rates are: long-term, £5.20 for 48 hours then £2.60 per 24 hours. Short-term, start at 65p an hour, to £5.60 for 24 hours reducing after five days to £2.60.

BUS: From Victoria, time is 1hr 10min, single fare £3.50, return fare £5. Brighton, 45min, £2.50, £3.50. Birmingham, 4hrs, £11.50, £13. Cardiff, 4hrs 45min, £16.50, £19.

TRAIN: From Victoria the journey time is 30min, single fare £5, return fare £10. Brighton, 30min, £3.10, £6.20. Birmingham, 3hrs, £22, £44. Cardiff, 2hrs, £23.50, £47. Rail sever fares are available when travelling off-peak.

The frequency of services varies seasonally. From Victoria the bus goes half-hourly in

summer, hourly in winter. The train runs every 15 minutes.

Buses leave two-hourly from Brighton, Birmingham and Cardiff, and with equal frequency from some other towns. Apart from the Greenline and National Express, buses quoted here for instance, there is a private line going to Birmingham making calls en route.

Between Gatwick and Heathrow there is a continuous bus service by competing Jetlink and Speedlink. Jetlink is cheapest (from £5 compared with £9 single) but Speedlink runs most frequently — every 20 minutes. The journey takes about an hour.

One new facility that will help travellers from central London is a check-in point for bags at the new Victoria Air Rail terminal. Here you can say goodbye to your luggage till you reach your destination. If you go by car to the North Terminal you drive off the M23 on to an elevated roadway right up to the departure level to unload bags, or for picking up arrivals, take the access road to the lower level.

People who come in by train take the shuttle from the South Terminal. It runs electrically and is completely automatic, rather like a lift that goes sideways instead of up and down. It takes only two minutes to travel the 14km (26mph max) between terminals and the longest waiting time is three minutes. A similar but slightly smaller Westinghouse elevated shuttle connects the South Terminal with the central Satellite terminal.

Once in the North Terminal the general idea seems to be to save everyone using their legs where possible. The building was planned so that no one should need to walk more than 250 metres — only those leaving from gates 56 and 62 have to stagger a little further. There is 40 per cent less walking than in the South Terminal.

A £24bn invisible trade in the skies

More than £24 billion worth of cargo was shipped through London's three airports — Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. In 1986, the last year for which figures are available, this was about 15 per cent of the total value of UK visible trade. Gatwick alone took more than 190,000 tonnes, an increase of nearly 17 per cent on the previous year, writes Malcolm Brown.

But though cargo aircraft carry many thousands of tons into and out of the airport every week, the real bulk of the cargo transport is transported right under the passengers' noses.

People are familiar with passenger and baggage handling, but what most of them do not realize is that there is a vast amount of valuable cargo on almost every passenger-carrying aircraft.

Ian Robinson, air cargo manager for BAA's subsidiary, British Airports Services, says that more than 80 per cent of all cargo is carried in the holds.

In the days before the oil price crises of the early 1970s there were large fleets of narrow-bodied freighter aircraft like DC-8s or Boeing 707s. But the introduction of wide-bodied aircraft like the 747 changed all that. The new aircraft could carry up to 120 tonnes as a freighter or 40-45 tonnes if they were passenger carriers. "That's as much, or more, cargo than the old 707 all-cargo aircraft," says Mr Robinson. "What with that and the fuel cost increases, and so on, the all-freighter aircraft seemed to have had its heyday."

Because the airlines get anything up to 25 per cent of their total revenues from cargo — and often more than that in terms of profits — they are keen to use the space in passenger aircraft.

Gatwick does not compete with Heathrow and Stansted for business. The policy, says Mr Robinson, is to sell the three as a package — the London air cargo system. London is in fierce com-

petition with European airports for a very valuable kind of business called "trans-shipment" traffic. A lot of traffic which needs to be transported from one part of the world to another cannot do so directly because there are no direct air services. So it must be trans-shipped through an established centre. "The competition we're into," says Mr Robinson, "is to establish London as the trans-shipment gateway to the rest of the world."

It is competing with Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam. Frankfurt is still in the lead, he says, but London is coming up fast. "The London airports' main strength is that together they have more flights to more international destinations by more carriers than any of their competitors."

Gatwick has particularly strong connections with the United States. It serves more American destinations than even Heathrow. That is vital because the Atlantic is still the world's busiest cargo route.

But Pacific traffic is building up strongly. A lot of high-technology goods are shipped in from the Far East through Gatwick by Cathay Pacific. Gatwick's present cargo capacity is 200,000 tonnes a year. There are nine transit sheds and there are plans for more to raise cargo capacity to 250,000 tonnes a year.

Eventually, as Gatwick pushes towards a projected 25 million passengers a year in the 1990s, the cargo capacity may be increased to as much as 500,000 tonnes. The cargo terminal area, on the north-west side of the airport, has 11 aircraft stands, three capable of accepting nose-loading Boeing 747s, and five for wide-bodied craft.

APC90, the computerized cargo inventory system, is generally regarded as one of the most advanced facilities in the world, linking 40 airlines with distribution centres, forwarders and agents.

The users are linked by desktop VDUs to each other and to the Customs' import clearance computer which can use it to track cargo consignments through every stage of their journey from point of origin to final destination.

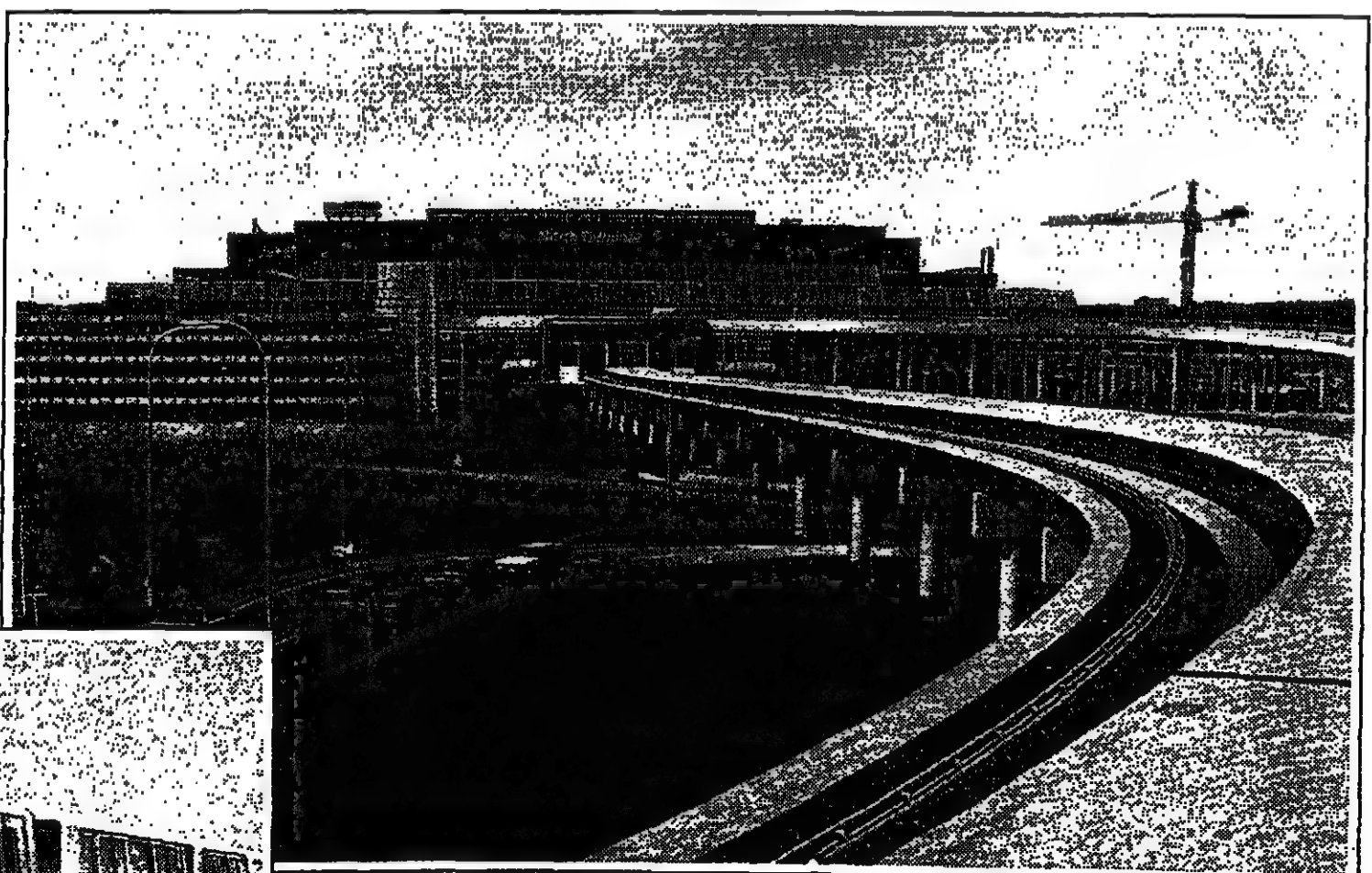
The Gatwick authorities claim that APC90 enables them to clear more than 80 per cent of imports through Customs within an hour.

Thanks for asking us back, Gatwick

After five years' working experience with the Westinghouse People Mover System, Gatwick came back for more.

The three-quarter-mile dual track linking Gatwick BR station with the North Terminal runs within sight of the system which was installed by Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1983 to carry passengers to and from the satellite terminal.

That was the first automated People Mover System to operate outside the United States. In those five years the driverless computer-controlled cars have carried 20 million people smoothly and quietly along the elevated guideways in all conditions, including snow.



The new North Terminal system will operate two three-car units, capable of carrying 7,900 baggage-carrying passengers an hour. Waiting time will be less than a minute. To conserve energy in slacker periods, vehicles will operate on-call, moving in response to the push of a button.

The proven reliability of the system, with an availability of 99.9 per cent, was a major factor in the decision to call in Westinghouse for a second time at Gatwick.

We are proud to be associated with the continuing development of the second busiest international airport in the world.



Westinghouse Electric S.A.

Mr Edward Gordon, People Mover Business Development, Westinghouse Transportation, 1501 Lebanon Church Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15236-1491, U.S.A.

Saddle for a ride on a run winner

By Veronica Heath

On Easter Monday, a young man named... (text continues)

When the... (text continues)

When the... (text continues)

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RACING: FIRST GOLD CUP WINNER FOR NICHOLSON AND DUNWOODY BUT FORGIVE'N FORGET HAS TO BE PUT DOWN AFTER BREAKING LEG

Chance for Outside Edge to regain winning thread

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With the useful Tom Bir a late defector, Outside Edge is selected to get back on the winning trail in the Nunley Novices' Chase at Lingfield this afternoon.

My choice will not be remotely inconvenienced by the heavy ground as it was fairly desperate at Folkestone last month when he outstayed Charter Hardware, who has won since.

Outside Edge has run in the meantime but fallen. Being a full brother to Rhyme 'N' Reason, stamina is obviously his strong suit and he should outstay today's rivals, the best of whom is likely to be St Andrew's Bay.

Afaristoun is napped to win the first division of the Newleaf Novices' Hurdle. A half-brother to that smart hurdler Azal, Afaristoun did all his early racing in France and the majority of the horses owned and bred by the Aga Khan.

When he ran his first race for his current connections at Worcester a little over two weeks ago, he could not cope

with Chatham, the other smart ex-French horse in the field. But he still finished a long way ahead of the remainder who included Montagnard. And Chatham underlined the value of the form when finishing third in yesterday's Triumph Hurdle.

The other division should go to Tranby Croft who has run well enough at Sandown, Windsor and Newbury already to suggest that he ought to be capable of continuing Josh Gifford's fine run.

Brown decides to retire

Colin Brown (right), announced his retirement from race-riding after performing Capote in the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday.

Brown, who will always be associated with Desert Orchid, said: "That's my lot. I made the decision a couple of months ago and there can't be a better place to go to than Cheltenham."

Brown rode 292 winners in a 15-year career. He is tenant of the Ilex public house in Chaddesworth and also leases out a livery yard.



At Fakenham, I envisage Geoff Hubbard, who now has 23 of his own horses in training at Worthing, landing a double on his local track with Cuddy Dale (2.45) and Vaguely Artistic (4.15).

While conceding that Perroquet will be hard to beat in the Topclean Novices' Chase, he should still not manage to give as much as 24lb to Cuddy Dale who ran the race of his life at Huntingdon last time out when he was runner-up to Delius.

A course as sharp as Fakenham is tailor-made to suit the free-running Old Eros as he attempts to defy top weight in the Holkham Conditional Jockeys Novices' Hurdle while Deadly Going looks the one to be on for the Middleton Aggregates Handicap Hurdle after that commendable effort against Pearl Run at Warwick 10 days ago.

At Wolverhampton, I give Mr Optimist, Andy Tunnell's recent acquisition from Ireland, a good chance of winning the second division of the Marston Novices' Hurdle on his English debut. Having won his bumper at Limerick in December in such style, the earlier division can go to Paraclete from Nicky Harrold's stable.

Kribensis fulfils sheikh's dream

Sheikh Mohammed's ambition to own a Cheltenham Festival winner was fulfilled yesterday when Kribensis raced away with the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle.

The Michael Stoute-trained gelding, a 6-1 shot, took up the running from Chatham at the turn and never looked in danger thereafter.

Kribensis, under Richard Dunwoody, won by three lengths from Walkin, with Chatham third, to pull off a marvellous upturning feat for Stoute's Newmarket team.

Former champion flat trainer Stoute is more used to the sunshine of Royal Ascot than the mud of the Festival. He said: "I don't pretend to know much about the jumping game. I just dabbed with the odd jumper. Really I'm a flat man through and through."

"We are going to have to start thinking in terms of next year's Cheltenham Festival."

Kribensis is one of only two jumpers racing for Sheikh Mohammed, who watched the race on television in Dubai.

Steve Smith Eccles, who rode joint-favourite Surf, said: "He was just not good enough."

Charter Party triumph married by death of 1985 Gold Cup winner

David Nicholson, saddled his first Gold Cup winner when Charter Party stormed home with six lengths clear of Cavvies Clown at Cheltenham yesterday, but admitted that his joy was tinged with sorrow over the death of 1985 winner Forgive'N Forget, who broke a leg.

Charter Party (10-1) was left clear when Cavvies Clown (6-1), blundered and nearly unseated Simon Sherwood two fences from home. However, he would not have won anyway. Third, 10 lengths away, was Beau Ranger (33-1) with French challenger Nupsala fourth.

Charter Party was completing a wonderful double for 34-year-old Richard Dunwoody, who also took the Triumph Hurdle on Kribensis.

Nicholson, who is 49 tomorrow, watched the race entirely on his own in the centre of the course. Charter Party had already returned to the winner's enclosure when a breathless Nicholson returned.

He said: "Coming down the hill I thought Charter Party might get a place, then it dawned on me he might actually win the Gold Cup. It's a great victory, but my heart goes to the unfortunate Forgive'N Forget. His death is a great blow to our sport."

Forgive'N Forget was travelling well on the heels of the leaders when he suddenly pulled up four fences from home with a hind leg swinging.

Mark Dwyer had been full of confidence and trainer Jimmy FitzGerald said: "I've not fancied a horse more since Forgive'N Forget won the Coral Golden Hurdle final here. In his last piece of work, he beat my Arkie winner, Danish Flight, by 15 lengths. I've never been able to retire a good horse for this owner."

Both King and Brave Fellow were killed.

Simon Sherwood, who did well to stay on board, did not make a mistake at his second last for the defeat of Cavvies Clown, saying: "I could have done with the ground a bit softer. But he is a lovely horse and gave me a super ride."

Nupsala could not overcome the alien environment. Trainer Francois Doumen said: "He was always having

to make too much effort to jump in that going, and treated the fences with too much respect."

Playschool, 100-30 favourite, was a disappointment, dropping right out in the last mile before pulling up three from home. Paul Nicholls said: "He was never going, never jumping, and something must be wrong."

David Barons was equally baffled. "I've no idea what went wrong but he ran like a dead horse. He has been under security for 48 hours and I've now asked for a dope test to be carried out."

Charter Party is shared by Claire Smith and Jenny Mould, who have their col-

lege to make too much effort to jump in that going, and treated the fences with too much respect."

Murray-Smith, responsible for Rhyme 'N' Reason's Irish National victory two years ago, added: "The ground in Ireland will be all important for Aquilifer. He will not run in it if it is better than soft."

Bucko, a game second, now goes for the Seagram Grand National with 105lb. Jimmy FitzGerald said: "He's got to have a good chance. He seems to be coming to himself and will come on for this race."

Dunwoody, Sherwood and Richard Rowe all rode two winners at the meeting. Sherwood carried the Ritz Trophy because he also had two seconds.

For the second year running, Galmoy was the only winner of the meeting for the Irish.

The Gold Cup day attendance of 43,129 was surprisingly 5,000 down on last year. Total turnover at the three days topped £3 million for the first time.

Kevin Mooney, regular jockey of Nick Gaselee's charge, was shaken after Arctic Stream fell in the previous race, and Powell, making the most of his opportunity, was impressed with the seven-year-old. "He was never off the bridle and was a very good horse," he said.

Gaselee, still at a loss to explain the defeat of Private Victory by Randolph Place at Ayr last time, was delighted to see him underline his potential. He said: "He's very versatile at home over two or three miles. Jumping fences has made him better."

Nupsala could not overcome the alien environment. Trainer Francois Doumen said: "He was always having

Gaselee will now ponder the next objective for his star which could either be a novice chase at Liverpool or a return here later in the season.

Aquilifer landed his sixth success of the season when taking the National Hunt Handicap Chase and is now to be aimed at the Irish National. A confirmed mudlark, Aquilifer, under Paul Crouch, reached the front earlier than intended after the second last, but stayed on well to beat Bucko by four lengths.

Trainer David Murray-Smith, climaxing his best season with his first Festival victory, said: "Paul decided he was going so well that he asked about although we normally prefer to wait longer, as he sometimes idles in front."

Murray-Smith, responsible for Rhyme 'N' Reason's Irish National victory two years ago, added: "The ground in Ireland will be all important for Aquilifer. He will not run in it if it is better than soft."

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LINGFIELD PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

2.00 AFARISTOUN (nap).
2.30 Sidewinder.
3.30 Pharaoh's Treasure.

3.30 Outside Edge.
4.00 Tranby Croft.
4.30 Sitar Theme.

By Michael Seely

3.30 Outside Edge. 4.30 Averon.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 AFARISTOUN.
Brian Beel's selection: 2.30 Sidewinder.

Going: soft (heavy patches on chase course)

2.0 NEWLEAF NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1: 4-Y-O: £1,525: 2m) (9 runners)

101 0 ADAMUS 101 (V Young) V Young 11-0
102 2 AFARISTOUN 26 (K Kaye) J Edwards 11-0
103 00 BERRY'S JOKE 26 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
104 00 CHANTY BOY (Prof A Sanderson) N Holden 11-0
105 00 FLOOD MARK 17 (J Clain) P Butler 11-0
106 114 4 MONTAGNARD 18 (M Sanderson) M Sanderson 11-0
107 23400 UP THE LADDER 24 (J Thompson) C Chalkley 11-0
108 0 MY INSPIRATION 108 (M L. Robinson) M Robinson 10-0
109 00 ON MY JOY 56 (P Gallagher) M Jones 10-0
110 BETTING: 4-1 Afaristoun, 4-1 Montagnard, 7-1 On My Joy, 8-1 Up The Ladder, 10-1 Flood Mark, 20-1 Berry's Joke, 20-1 Chantay Boy, 20-1 On My Joy.

1987: TAMARUAT 4-1-0 G McCourt (11-4) D Ringer 21 ran

101 0 ADAMUS 101 (V Young) V Young 11-0
102 2 AFARISTOUN 26 (K Kaye) J Edwards 11-0
103 00 BERRY'S JOKE 26 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
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2.30 FT HORSE NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: 2222: 3m) (12 runners)

101 00 AFARISTOUN 26 (K Kaye) J Edwards 11-0
102 00 BROOKSIDE KING 11 (J Huddy) H Huddy 11-0
103 00 DANCY SPICE 22 (M L. Jones) M Jones 11-0
104 00 GENERAL SANDY 219 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
105 00 HARD UP 22 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
106 00 ROSSIE 22 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
107 00 SPINNEY PROSPECT 22 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
108 00 SALMON SPRINGER 22 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
109 00 SIDERWINDER 11 (J Pickering) J Pickering 11-0
110 00 TROUBLE 11 (J Pickering) J Pickering 11-0
111 00 WATER DRAGON 408 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
112 000000 GRAFTON HURDLE 11 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
113 BETTING: 5-1 Hard Up, 5-1 Siderwinder, 5-1 Brookside King, 5-1 Grafton Hurdle, 10-1 General Sandy, 10-1 Rossie, 10-1 Spinney Prospect, 10-1 Salmon Springer, 10-1 Siderwinder, 10-1 Trouble, 10-1 Water Dragon.

1987: ARTYLL VALLEY 10-13-0 T Moore (10-30) S Thorogood 11 ran

101 00 AFARISTOUN 26 (K Kaye) J Edwards 11-0
102 00 BROOKSIDE KING 11 (J Huddy) H Huddy 11-0
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104 00 GENERAL SANDY 219 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
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3.0 EDEN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,222: 2m) (24 runners)

101 00 JACUZZI 30 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
102 00 PHOENIX TREASURE 30 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
103 000000 RYAN DOVE 20 (M Jones) M Jones 11-0
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3.55 EDEN SELLING HANDICAP HURD

Another outstanding
player in the Portland
arena is David Linfield, a
team captain and one of
the most of the interval
game place.
A talented player
in Portland
They

FOOTBALL: HOW KINGS OF 1974 COMPARE WITH PRESENT-DAY COUNTERPARTS

Leeds win the test of time thanks to rivals' strength

By David Miller

If Liverpool should avoid defeat against Everton on Sunday, which must be expected, and thereby establish a new unbeaten record of 30 matches, I am among those who will persist in believing, by instinct more than logic, that the Leeds team of 1973-74 was superior. I shall, however, endeavour to bolster instinct with fact.

I say this as one who has always been only grudgingly complimentary towards the Don Revie era at Leeds, on account of the fact that he and his players introduced, and indeed perfected, some of the most retrograde practices of modern football. Johnny Giles has indeed admitted this. There were, as Bill Nicholson says with understatement, a lot of things about Leeds you disagreed with.

Yet that is the strength, in a sense, of my argument. I have always thought Leeds were a far better team than they allowed themselves to appear, and should have won many more trophies than two league championships, two FA Cups and a League Cup. They were 10 times the runners-up at least partially because the meticulous efficiency of their game, comparable to Liverpool's, was undermined by that undercurrent of almost neurotic caution emanating from the manager. You never felt Leeds enjoyed their football the way Liverpool do.

Yet maybe the most compelling reason for believing Leeds have a slight edge — in a comparison between different eras and teams which is so fascinating yet in truth so impossible — is that their contemporaries were of so much sterner stuff. Bob Paisley has said that this is currently the poorest first division he can remember, and that fact, agreed by many, must condition any assessment of Liverpool's present unquestionable superiority.

In 1973 there were still a dozen clubs which, though not all having a strong chance, might reasonably be considered as possible champions of the forthcoming season. That number had, by 1987, been reduced to four: Everton, Manchester United, Arsenal

HOW THE RECORDS COMPARE

LEEDS UNITED 1973-74

Everton	(H) 3-1	Arsenal
Arsenal	(A) 2-1	Coventry City
Tottenham	(H) 3-0	West Ham Utd
Wolves	(H) 4-1	Oxford Utd
Birmingham	(H) 3-0	Charlton At
Wolves	(A) 2-0	Worcester Utd
Southampton	(A) 2-0	Derby County
Manchester Utd	(A) 2-1	Portsmouth
Norwich City	(H) 0-0	QPR
Stoke City	(A) 1-0	Luton Town
Leicester City	(H) 2-2	Everton
Wolver	(H) 1-0	Wimbledon
Manchester C	(H) 1-0	Manchester Utd
West Ham Utd	(H) 4-1	Wolver City
Burnley	(H) 3-0	Worthing
Coventry City	(A) 0-0	Tottenham H
Derby County	(A) 0-0	Chelsea
QPR	(H) 2-2	Southampton
Ipswich	(H) 3-0	Sheff Wed
Chelsea	(A) 2-1	Oxford Utd
Norwich City	(A) 1-0	Coventry City
Newcastle Utd	(H) 1-1	Arsenal
Birmingham C	(H) 1-0	Charlton
Tottenham H	(H) 1-1	West Ham Utd
Southampton	(H) 2-1	Worthing
Everton	(A) 0-0	Portsmouth
Chelsea	(H) 3-1	QPR
Arsenal	(A) 2-0	Derby County
Manchester Utd	(A) 2-3	Everton
Stoke City		

